

Ready for God to Transform Me

James 1:19-21

- I. **Be quick to listen (1:19a).**
 - *True listening means focusing on others.*
 - B. Listening to God through His word
 - Attitude check: Am I teachable? Or do I know best?
 - C. Listening to People
 - To serve people – Do I take interest in others?
 - To get along – Do I understand their view/intent?
 - To get advice/wisdom – Do I expect God to use others to speak to me?
- II. **Be slow to speak (1:19b).**
 - *Most talking is about me.*
 - A. Be careful about desiring to teach (James 3:1-4).
 - Do we just like to dispense our “wisdom”? Do we talk to impress?
 - B. Be careful how our words can inflame situations (James 3:5-12)
 - Do we guard our tongue from injuring others?
 - C. Be sure to speak when we should (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6).
 - Do we use our words to serve and benefit others?
- III. **Be slow to anger (1:19c, 20).**
 - *Anger is almost always about me.*
 - A. Anger prevents us from having the life God has planned for us (1:20).
 - B. We get angry because of our guilt (Genesis 4:6).
- IV. **As we turn from sin within, God can transform us by His word within (1:21).**
 - A. We must first turn from our sin (repent).
 - B. Then God’s implanted word can “save” us.
 - “Save” probably refers to this life, not eternity.