

ME & MY BIG MOUTH - DAILY DEVO - MONDAY

BIG IDEA – MAKING THINGS RIGHT >>> BEING RIGHT

James reminds us of an important stance we should walk in as believers – one where we are more concerned with **MAKING** things right than **BEING** right. Because what's more important than being right? Being reconciled.

TALK IT OUT –

Read James 1:19-21. *How would you explain what James is trying to say? (In the famous words of Denzel Washington's character in Philadelphia, "explain it to me like I'm a six year old.")*

How does remembering that God made things right with us when we were in the wrong affect your motivation to make things right with others?

God doesn't want us to be right **VS.** one another, but right **WITH** one another.

Who do you need to be right with currently? Briefly describe the tensions in that relationship.

How can James' recipe for reconciliation help MAKE things right with that person?

WALK IT OUT –

A verse for memorization and meditation:

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. – **2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19***

ME & MY BIG MOUTH - DAILY DEVO - TUESDAY

BIG IDEA – QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK

Jesus modeled listening for us in a big way. In the 60+ conversations in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus (who was all-knowing) asks no less than 50 questions. This means that while Jesus had all the answers, he still spent time listening.

TALK IT OUT

What does Jesus' habit of asking questions even when he had the answers teach us about connecting with people?

Have you had situations where you did the opposite of what James recommends —slow to hear, quick to speak?

What's the problem with that?

Caring is currency for connection when you're attempting to communicate.

How can you show someone that you care when you're in the midst of a discussion, even one that is heated?

WALK IT OUT

Is there a particular person in your life with whom you should do more listening? Work on this. You might even think of some questions to ask in your next conversation. Focus on them, not on your own responses.

(What we begin doing intentionally we will eventually do habitually!)

ME & MY BIG MOUTH - DAILY DEVO - WEDNESDAY

BIG IDEA – SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY

Ecclesiastes 7:9 is a great verse for our outrage addicted culture:

“Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.”
Short fuses and thin skin belong to fools, not the wise.

TALK IT OUT

When is the last time you felt angry?

Is it a sin to become angry?

Do you think that sometimes God wants us to get angry about certain things?

How do you reconcile that with James 1:20?

*What two things does Ecclesiastes 7:9 teach us about anger?**

We've all heard it said, “Never talk about politics, sex, money and religion at the dinner table.” *What subject matter immediately awakens the high school debate champion and keyboard warrior within you?*

How does being quick to listen and slow to speak slow down your rush to get angry?

WALK IT OUT

Pray that the Holy Spirit continue to produce the fruit of patience in your life so that it can produce fruit in your conversations and relationships.

*we can't let it reside in our heart (we're commanded to forgive) + we can't be quick to anger.

ME & MY BIG MOUTH - DAILY DEVO - THURSDAY

BIG IDEA – TNT ON YOUR TONGUE

Alfred Noble invented dynamite with the vision that it would be used to clear terrain for roads and bridges. But in a matter of a few years, his invention had been weaponized and militarized. His invention that he had created with a vision for construction was being used for destruction – even death.

You have TNT in your tongue. And like dynamite your words can be a constructive part of building, or a destructive tool for wounding. You choose with the words you speak.

TALK IT OUT

Talk about a time you were criticized.
How did it feel?

On a typical day, are you more of a fault finder or a hope dealer?

Why do you think it is easier for most people to cut up and tear down rather than build up?

*Who can you start dealing hope to?
What obstacles might you face?
How will you go about it?*

WALK IT OUT

Challenge yourself for a day to start each interaction with a genuine compliment of some sort (it can be as simple as “I always enjoy seeing you,” to “I like your shoes,” or something deeper). If you “talked it out” with somebody else, find a way to practically encourage them before you step away.

Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing
Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)

ME & MY BIG MOUTH - DAILY DEVO - FRIDAY

BIG IDEA – Navigating Conversations & Conflict

Life's course is often set by our crucial conversations with loved ones, coworkers, and alike. And like it was said in last week's sermon, we all have a little Andrew Jackson in us. He was a serial duelist, and we too like the go tit for tat, shot for shot, and blow for blow. How can we do better?

TALK IT OUT

In the middle of a conflict, we all have a natural response. Select the phrases below that best describe what you're quick to do:

When someone accuses me, I'm quick to:

- Review the facts and prepare a retort
- Write the person off and ignore their claims
- Ask clarifying questions

When someone tells me how I've hurt them, I'm quick to:

- Claim my own hurt
- Defend my actions
- Affirm their feelings and apologize

When I know I'm right, I'm quick to:

- State my case with evidence
- Shut down and withdraw emotionally
- Be curious and patient while they explain their point of view

WALK IT OUT

Employ these strategies in hard conversations moving forward:

- Ask three questions before responding with your side
- Avoid declarations
- Listen to understand rather than reply
- Remind yourself that everything a person does, says, and believes makes sense to them
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Proverbs 18:17 - *The first to speak in court sounds right— until the cross-examination begins.*