

Stand Still and Be Quiet

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. James 1:19 - "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"
 - 1. It is human nature to act on an impulse and to speak on a whim
 - 2. Impulsive Peter
 - a. "Let us build three tabernacles"
 - b. "You will never wash my feet; wash my head and hands"
 - c. Cutting off Malchus' ear; denying Jesus
 - d. Eating with Gentiles; refusing to eat with them
 - 3. We speak before we think; protest before we have the facts
 - a. Remember not only to say the right thing at the right time and place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
 - b. There are people who, instead of listening to what is being said to them, are already listening to what they are going to say themselves.
- B. Going to examine the scriptures for the wisdom of God for man, who needs to stop and listen before speaking and acting.

I. THE WISE MAN STANDS STILL AND IS QUIET

- A. Psalm 131:1-2 - "LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. 2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me."
 - 1. One of David's songs of ascent to be sung by worshipers on their way to the house of God
 - 2. Telling themselves to be humble in the presence of God, as a child who has just nursed to contentment calmly lies in his mother's arms
 - 3. Does that image speak to us about how we should be when we come before God?
- B. The man who stands still and is quiet will learn what is best for him
 - 1. 1Sam. 15:16 - "Then Samuel said to Saul, Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night. And he said to him, Speak on."
 - a. Saul was busy running his mouth trying to justify his actions
 - b. Samuel wanted him to be quiet and listen to what God said about his actions
 - c. Could we profit from quieting our own rationalizations and listening to what God says about our choices?
 - 2. Num. 9:8 - "And Moses said to them, "Stand still, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you."
 - a. Moses wanted the defiled men to stop protesting their right to sacrifice long enough so he could hear why God said they were unworthy
 - b. It would be wise to put aside our offense and listen to God

3. 1Sam. 9:27 - "As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Tell the servant to go on ahead of us. And he went on. But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."
 - a. Even a king needs to take time from his schedule and be humble and listen to the messenger of God
 - b. You are never too important or busy to shut up, sit down, and listen to the word of God
4. 1Sam. 12:7 - "Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers"
 - a. It was necessary that they take time to consider the past in order to know how to act in the present and future
 - b. One needs to stand still and listen to things he may have already learned and been practicing
 - c. 2Peter 1:12
5. Job 37:14 - "Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God."
 - a. Even the man who was know in scripture for his patience was told to stop and listen to God
 - b. Job himself fell into the trap of protesting his own goodness and forgetting that God is in charge

II. THE WISE MAN KNOWS THAT QUIETNESS IS GOOD FOR HIM

- A. Quietness and righteousness go hand in hand
 1. Isa. 32:17 - "The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."
 - a. Righteousness leads to a quiet life
 2. A quiet life is a good life
 - a. Prov. 17:1 - "Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife."
 - b. Ecc. 4:6 - "Better a handful with quietness Than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind."
 3. Christians must work to maintain a quiet life
 - a. 1Thes. 4:11 - "that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you"
 - b. 2Thes. 3:12 - "Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread."
 4. Christians should pray for a quiet life - 1Tim. 2:1-4
 5. Christians should fight the impulse to speak and act in haste
 - a. Psalm 4:4 - "Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still." (Eph. 4:26)
 - b. Acts 19:23-41 - Diana of the Ephesians and trouble over impulsive mob action

III. THE WISE MAN WHO IS QUIET WILL SEE GOD IN ACTION

- A. Lam. 3:26 - "It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD."
- B. Ex. 14:13 - "And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."
 - 1. Israel was murmuring and demanding to be led back to captivity
- C. 2Chron. 20:17 - "You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."
 - 1. Exegete chapter
- D. Psalm. 37:7 - "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass."
 - 1. Give it time; stand still and be quiet; God will win
 - 2. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"