

“JOHN SAW THE SWORD”

(Message #7)

Text: Revelation 1:12-16
Subject: The Power Of The Word Of God

Introduction

- ◆ In message 1 – John sees the *Robe* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is our High Priest and gives us access into the very presence of God.
- ◆ In message 2 – John sees the *Hair* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is full of pure wisdom and imparts His wisdom to those who follow Him.
- ◆ In message 3 – John sees the *Eyes* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is our refiner’s fire and sees into the depths of our being.
- ◆ In message 4 – John sees the *Feet* of Jesus...
...How Jesus has power over the power of sin to dominate any believer.
- ◆ In message 5 – John hears the *Voice* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is still leading and guiding His sheep.
- ◆ In message 6 – John sees the *Hand* of Jesus...
...How Jesus holds us by His grace, power and strength.

(Today – John Sees The Sword)

Verse 16 says...

“And a sharp two-edged sword came from His mouth”

Question: What does John see?

Answer: Two things:

#1. A sharp two-edged sword (and) #2. The mouth of Jesus

Question: What is Jesus showing us here? (One thing)

Answer: The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Question: Why is Jesus showing us the sword of the Word?

Answer: Because the sword of the Word is two-edged.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The Word of God that cuts us, ◆ Is the same Word that heals us!

(Notice)

- ◆ The sharp two-edged sword is coming from the mouth of Jesus.

(Why?)

- ◆ To emphasize the **power**, and **force**, and **ability** of His message:
- ◆ To emphasize the **intent** of the Word.
- ◆ To emphasize the **desire** of the Word.
- ◆ To emphasize the **process** of the Word.
- ◆ To emphasize the joy of being **transformed** by the Holy Word of God.

Question: How does this Word work in us? (James describes how the two-edged sword works)

(In James 1:19-25)

I. **The Desire Of The Word (James 1:19,20)**

Question: How does God show us how to desire the sharp two-edged sword?

(Verse 19), "Wherefore My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath".

Question: How does God reveal the proper desire for the Truth?

(3 Ways)

#1. **Readiness** (V. 19)

◆ **"Swift To Hear"** (Which means:)

- ◆ Readiness to listen.
- ◆ Quick to hear what God has to say.
- ◆ Willingness for God to get in my face.

Question #1: How many of you are willing to be swift to hear the Word of God?

◆ **"Slow To Speak"** (Which means:)

- ◆ Restrained speech to talk back.
- ◆ Refusing to argue with God.
- ◆ Refraining myself from resenting what God tells me.

Question #2: How many of you are willing to be slow to speak (or not talk back and argue when God speaks to you?)

◆ **"Slow To Wrath"** (Which means:)

- ◆ I'll not get angry and close my mind to God.
- ◆ I'll not rebel against God when His Truth reveals my defects.
- ◆ I'll "calm down" and "chill out" and quit justifying myself when God convicts me about something.

Question #3: How many of you are willing to say "Yes" to God (and instead of getting angry at God, thank God for loving you enough to keep you on the Potter's Wheel?)

(#1 – The Word changes us as we desire it with readiness)

#2. **Cleanliness** (V. 21A)

"Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness"

- ◆ The word "filthiness" means stained or dirty.
- ◆ It refers to unclean garments or clothes.
- ◆ It's a picture of taking off anything that corrupts me (and throwing it aside).
- ◆ The Greek word for "filthiness" is (RUPARIA) which comes from the Greek word (RUPOS)
- ◆ (RUPOS) is sometimes used to refer to wax in the ear. (What a picture)
- ◆ A person with wax in the ear cannot hear the Word of God clearly. (Pg. 2 of 5)

- ◆ If he really cares about hearing it, he must take out the wax so he can hear and receive.

Question: #1. Is there anything whatsoever in my life that distracts me or hinders me from receiving the Word through a clear channel?

(#1. Readiness, #2. Cleanliness)

#3. Lowliness (V. 21B)

“Receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your soul”

Question: How do we receive the implanted Word?

Answer: “With meekness”.

Question: What does it mean to receive the truth with meekness?

Answer: It means to accept the Word, honor it, submit to it, refuse to argue with it and don't try to adjust it to the way I live.

- ◆ It means to receive it with an open heart and a ready mind.
- ◆ It means to receive it with an anxiousness to do it. (**What's The Result?**)
- ◆ The word “engrafted” means “to implant and grow”.
- ◆ It means that when you sit under the pure Word of God; what God says, is actually being born within your heart. (It is birthed in your spirit).

(Verse 21B Means Here:)

- ◆ The degree I receive the Word with meekness, will be the same degree God is able to change me and deliver me from myself.

II. The Danger Of The Word

Question: What's the danger of the Word?

Answer: The danger is described in James 1:23,24

“For if any be a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a mirror”.

“For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was”.

Question: How is the Word from Jesus in our midst – like a mirror?

Answer: It shows us our inner nature, in the same way a regular mirror shows us our exterior nature.

- ◆ Both mirrors reflect what is there!
- ◆ Both mirrors show us what to change!
- ◆ Both mirrors reveal us to ourselves, so we can then make the necessary adjustments.

Question: The question is, why does the mirror (of the Word) change some, but doesn't change others?

(God Has The Answer)

And James Records The 3 Dangers Of The Word

Danger #1: Is *Hurriedness*

(Verse 24), “For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way”

- ◆ This is glancing carelessly.

- ◆ This is reading or hearing out of duty.
- ◆ This is a brief devotion to appease my conscience.
- ◆ This is the mind set of "Hurry up preacher, I've got to go my way".
- ◆ This is self deception (thinking I can hear and learn the Word, and then go out and live any way I please).

Danger #2: Is *Forgetfulness*

(Verse 24), "...and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

- ◆ This occurs to millions every Sunday.
- ◆ This is hearing and knowing the Truth, yet putting it aside as soon as service is over.
- ◆ This is taking in the Word, but forgetting it at the first opportunity.
- ◆ This is seeing what God wants to change, but quickly becoming distracted by other things.
- ◆ This is looking in the mirror but not staying there long enough to let the mirror do its job.

Danger #3: Is *Deceitfulness*

(Verse 22), "But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves".

- ◆ This is substituting hearing for doing.
- ◆ This thinks that hearing (by itself) is beneficial.
- ◆ This shouts, "Amen preacher" (but forgets that the blessing is in the doing, not the reading, hearing or learning).

(Read John 14:21)

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself in him".

- ◆ (2 By-Products Of Doing The Word)
 - #1. You'll be loved of the Father. (And)
 - #2. The Lord will manifest Himself to you, to the degree you walk in obedience.

III. The Deliverance Of The Word

Question: Why is the two-edged sword a gospel of deliverance?

(Verse 25), "Whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the Word, this man shall be blessed in his deed".

Question: Why is the Bible called the "Perfect law of liberty"?

Answer: Because the Holy Spirit takes the law and liberates people from the servitude of sin.

- ◆ The Word produces **freedom from every bondage.**
- ◆ The Word **delivers from every bad habit.**
- ◆ The Word **influences the soul for the better.**
- ◆ The Word **overcomes internal enemies against you.**
- ◆ The Word **gives victory over fiery darts hurled towards you.**
- ◆ The Word **separates flesh from spirit.**
- ◆ The Word **sensitizes your conscience.**
- ◆ The Word **gives birth to faith within your heart.**

(Jesus Said In John 8:31,32)

"If you continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free".

(Read Hebrews 4:12)

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner the thoughts and intents of the heart”.

(Notice The Two-Edged Sword Here)

- #1. The Word Of God is “Quick” (ZON)
 - ◆ This word means alive and living.
 - ◆ It means the word is always active and working.
 - ◆ It means the word is quickening its message of life to the human heart.
- #2. The Word Of God Is “Powerful” (ENERGES)
 - ◆ This means energizing.
 - ◆ It means the Word of God literally gives you energy and power to live your Christian life.
- #3. The Word of God is “Sharper Than A Two-Edged Sword”
 - ◆ The Word “Sharper” (TOMOTEROS) means to cut.
 - ◆ It means “To convict” and “To penetrate”.
- #4. The Word Of God Is “Piercing” (DIKNOUMENOS)
 - ◆ This word means “To go through and pierce”.
 - ◆ It means that the Word of God goes right through to the soul and spirit of man.
 - ◆ The Word literally takes our soulish nature and separates it from the spiritual.
- #5. The Word Of God “Discerns The Thoughts And Intents (Purpose) Of The Heart”
 - ◆ The word “Discern” (KRITIKOS) means to judge, to sift, to analyze.
 - ◆ It means that the Word of God is able to penetrate anyone, to the deepest recesses of their being, and sift out, analyze and expose the intents of the heart.

(This Is Why Romans 1:16 Is So True (Where Paul Said:))

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: (Why not?) For it is the Power of God unto salvation to everyone who will believe it”.

(What’s It Mean?)

- #1. It means that the Gospel is Supernatural in power and ability to work in anyone.
- #2. It means that this Gospel will birth salvation (simply deliver anyone from any sin and save them from the powers of destruction).

Question: Why does John see Jesus in the midst of the church, with the Word coming from His mouth?

Answer: Because God loves you enough, to speak through His Word, to form His righteous character within your own life!!!

(An Illustrated Sermon)

- #1. A window (where we look at the Word and see everyone else’s weaknesses).
- #2. A mirror (where we look at the Word and see our own inconsistencies).

Altar Call!

Bill Kirk, Pastor