

How To Improve Your Pastor's Preaching

James 1:19-27

My own heart's attitude is the key in the proper reception of my Pastor's message.

A wandering mind, a critical spirit, impatience with the length of the message—all these things can hinder me from gladly receiving God's Word (*Acts 2:41*). I can find fault with some minor point while totally missing the application and admonition that the Spirit of God wanted to bring to my heart.

Richard DeHaan has penned the following verses:

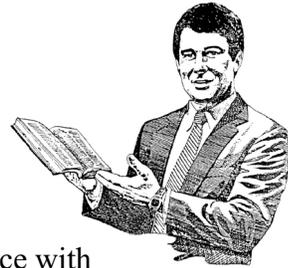
"Sunday the sermon was sluggish; 'Twas hard attention to keep. The theme was faultily chosen; It almost put me to sleep. Monday was blue with sheer boredom; Tuesday was carnal by choice. Wednesday my conscience was wakened by pleas from a still, small voice. Prayer meeting left me uplifted; Loyalty lingering long. Thursday my heart was responding; Friday His nudging was strong. I came to thorough repentance the following Saturday; I yielded in full surrender as all on the altar I lay.

Sunday the sermon was perfect, superb and quite at its peak; amazing how greatly that pastor improved in the space of one week!"

When I assemble together with God's people, the Lord Jesus is present and in the midst (*Matt. 18:20*). How I need to come with a prayerful attitude and a prepared heart: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening! What do You have for my heart today?" There is no better way to improve your Pastor's preaching than to come with a clean heart and hungry soul eager to feast at the Lord's banquet table. There will be more power in the pulpit when there is more prayerfulness and preparedness in the pew.

"Wherefore lay apart [*put off as a filthy garment*] all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness [*abundance of wickedness*] and receive with meekness the engrafted word [*implanted word*] which is able to save your souls" (*James 1:21*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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