

## 21-Does Something Need To Be Said, Now, By Me?

A local radio station in town runs a commercial that offers Godly advise. Here are the three questions the ad poses:

When something happens does anything need TO BE SAID about it?

Does it need to be said NOW?

Does it need to be said by ME?

This is not a Christian radio station but the three questions fall in line with the teaching in **James 1:19** – “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

If we are quick to listen, then we can discern if anything needs to be said. Some things need to be overlooked. Not everything needs to be addressed. Recall the lesson entitled “Do You Let Anger Take Control?” Doctors’ Carter and Minirth suggested Dropping Anger – you accept your inability to completely control circumstances and you recognize your personal limits. It includes tolerance of differences as well as choosing to forgive. Ephesians 4:32 instructs us to choose kindness and forgiveness as a way of life. Choosing to drop anger is far different from suppressing it. Suppression represents phoniness while dropping anger represents a commitment to godliness. So first ask yourself- Does anything need to be said or can you drop the situation?

If something needs to be said is now the time? James mentions the tongue’s ability to start a forest fire. Not a literal fire but a fire that can destroy relationships. Speaking when your emotions are surging is what James is referring to. There may be a time to deal with the situation but it should be when “cooler heads” prevail. Timing is critical if you desire a positive outcome. Speaking when emotions are high leads to low levels of communications because the feelings get in the way of true understanding.

Which brings us to the third point-Am I the person to speak? Many men will appear like knights in shining armor to rescue a loved one. There are times when this is the right action. One time is when the person cannot speak for themselves. When the person needs and requests your intervention.

However there are times when the rescuer does the person being rescued a disservice. **Better to coach the person to speak for themselves than to speak for them.** Teach a man to fish is the point here. Instead of enabling a passive person by speaking for them, we need to stand with them, walk with them and encourage them to speak for themselves. This produces growth in the person, shows the offender that the person does not stand alone and often convicts the offender to change his ways.

The world can provide wisdom. Combined with God’s wisdom it can be useful! This ad is a perfect example of three simple steps that can determine the success of how you deal with a situation. It is easy to remember-does it need to be said now by me? If the answer is no then step back and allow the Holy Spirit to chart your course.

Verse:

**James 3:3-8** “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

### Personal Reflection:

Have there been times when you could have benefited from these three simple questions? How could these three steps have changed the outcome?

### Group Discussion:

How can you encourage each other to employ this simple approach to dealing with situations? Be honest in sharing what you saw during your personal reflection time.