SERMON NOTES

The B.L.E.S.S. Strategy

L. - Listen (Luke 18)

B - begin with prayer
L - listen
E - eat
S - serve
S - story

I. _____ _____ from Jesus *(Luke 18:35-40)*

       1. Don't be _____   *"bring him to me" (v. 40)*

- People were always crowding Jesus.
- In our case, maybe a cell phone or something else.

      2. Don't _____ things

    (John 5:5-6)   *"Do you wish to get well?"*

    (Luke 18:39-43)   *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

II. _____ _____ from James *(James 1:18-20)*

- James' letter has been called "Christianity in shoe leather."
- verse 18 - speaks of our new birth
  verse 19 - speaks of our new behavior
- You'll notice 3 commands in verse 19 . . .
  A. quick to hear
  B. slow to speak
  C. slow to wrath

    1. "Quick to hear" - _____   ____!

- We need to be careful though, in both how we listen and to what we listen to.
  "So take care how you listen"   *(Luke 8:18)*
  "Take care of what you listen to"   *(Mark 4:24)*
- Question: How does God speak to us?

    Answer: In many ways but 3 are most common:

    A. through the _____
    Ask yourself, is there:
        a. a lesson to learn?
        b. a blessing to enjoy?
        c. a commend to obey?
        d. a sin to avoid?
        e. a new truth to carry with me?

    B. through the _____

    - God holds us accountable for not only what we heard but what we would have heard had we listened!

    C. through the _____

- In talking with people, Dave Ferguson encourages the use of the 4 H's

    - History - Tell me your story, where did you grow up?
    - Heart   - What's your favorite . . . (team, restaurant etc.)
    - Habits   - What are you into?
    - Hurts   - How are you doing with . . . (the situation)

    2. Slow to speak - _____   _____

- Most of us talk too much!
  (Proverbs 10:19)   *(Proverbs 17:27-28)*
- Rabbi's would teach:

"Man has 2 ears and one mouth. The ears are made to always be open but the mouth is made so it can be closed, and the tongue is enclosed in a den behind ivory bars - the teeth."
    (Psalm 141:3)

- Swift to hear and slow to speak go hand in hand.
  You can't hear if you are talking!