

James 1:19-27 ~ Listening and Doing ~ Discussion Questions

Memory verses: 1:19 and 1:22

1. What is the wisdom expressed in Verse 19? (Proverbs 10:19, 10:32, 12:18, 13:3, 15:31-32)
2. What are some characteristics of a wise person who you know?
3. In verse 1:19 is James saying that anger is wrong?
4. What does anger lead us into? (Prov 14:17, 29:22, Psalm 37:8, Colossians 3:21) How does that resonate with you personally?
5. What is the command in verse 1:21?
6. How do we shed “moral filth and evil”? [NIV] (See 1 John 1:9)
7. In verses 1:21, 22 and 23, James refers to the “word.” To what does that refer? (James 1:18, Jeremiah 31:33-34) How are we to react to that ‘word’ and what are we to do with it?
8. What does being a doer of the word prove about us? (Acts 26:20)
9. Why does James use such a preposterous analogy in verses 1:23-24?
10. What is the ‘law’ that James refers to in verse 1:25 and why is it perfect?
11. How does obedience provide freedom? (Isaiah 55:7-9, Luke 6:46-49)
12. What is the difference between knowing God’s will and doing it?
13. What freedom or blessing does doing God’s will provide? (Romans 8:2)
14. What does the world think that the word ‘religion’ means? When someone is described as ‘religious’ on the street, in a book, or in a TV show, what is meant?
15. In 1:26-27, what does James say is the key characteristic of religious behavior?
16. If we do not control our tongue, who are we fooling?
17. How do we know that someone is a believer? (Titus 3:8, 1 Peter 1:13-16)
18. What does James say is the ‘religion’ that God accepts?

James 1:19-27 ~ Listening and Doing ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. What do you think of a person who does what he tells others not to do? (Like a doctor who smokes after telling his patients not to smoke.)
2. What makes it hard for us to be good listeners?
3. When are you most likely to lose your temper?
4. What is the relationship between anger and righteous living (1:20)?
5. When you lose your temper and display anger, how does this affect your witness to others as a Christian?
6. What can you do in a realistic, practical sense to guard against losing your temper in front of other people?
7. How is what you say related to the credibility of your faith (1:26)?
8. James says in Verse 1:27 that God wants us to “look after orphans and widows.” Do you think he means this literally, or should we interpret it in some broader sense?
9. How can you keep yourself from being polluted by the world (1:26)?
10. What do you personally need to change in your actions *this week* so your walk matches your talk?