

Week of October 9 - "Slow Down!" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 5

Connect

Would you consider a recent graduate of a medical degree program (M.D.) a real doctor, without ever practicing medicine? How about one day before graduating?

Verses - James 1:19-27 (CSB)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. 21 Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Study

1. What is the relationship between listening and speaking, and anger? In particular, how would the speed of speaking and listening affect anger? (Proverbs 14:29, 17:27)

2. From v.22, James now downplays hearing. What is the human tendency that James is pointing out, and what is the warning that the Christian should not overlook? What would you call that type of "Christian?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 18-20)

APPLY 1: Many of us have felt the conviction of not being "doers of the Word." What are we to do when this happens? (Galatians 5:24-25; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23)

DISCUSS 1: Notice James is telling a Christian audience to behave like Christians. Why is this necessary? (1 Corinthians 14:20; Ephesians 4:14-15; 2 Peter 3:18)

3. According to James in v.27, what are the two things that qualify as "pure and undefiled religion?" What do these have to do with Matthew 22:40? (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16; Romans 8:4-5)

APPLY 2: Besides these two examples of ministry and worship in v.27, what are the other ways we can do this? (v.22)

DISCUSS 2: How does v.19 connect and continue from James 1:18 as we discussed in last lesson? What does God's sovereignty and election have to do with today's verses, and how do we know that salvation is not based upon what we do? (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 11:6; John 6:28-29)

Share

How does the gospel relate, or you might say, even allow someone to both hear and be doers of the Word? How does the gospel encourage James' exhortation?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for each other, to not only be hearers of the Word, but also be doers.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel.
- Pray for the Lord to reveal how you can serve Him in ministry.