

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 4TH, 2022 // BOOK OF JAMES

### RECEIVING THE WORD (JAMES 1:19-21)

#### HUMILITY IN OUR SPEECH

Slow to speak means that we speak with humility and patience. **Constant talking can keep others and us from being able to hear.**

- When we talk too much, we tell others that our ideas are more important than theirs. **We should follow Jesus' example in how He kept His words short, used questions, and then listened.**

#### HUMILITY TOWARDS GOD

Not only should we be slow to speak with people with whom we should be in fellowship, but we also should do it with God.

- It is impossible to hear or learn from God if we are not quiet. Three reasons for this are that we are **distracted, busy, and selfish. We occupy space in our hearts that is only meant for God.**

#### HUMAN ANGER AND GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Most of our anger and wrath comes from being self-centered and not others-centered.

- **Our wrath almost always promotes or defends our own ideas or agendas. Anger assumes God's role as a judge because we hold people up to our righteousness instead of God's.**

#### PREVALENT MORAL FILTH AND EVIL

James is using a word picture here of us getting rid of evil habits and actions just like we would strip out of dirty clothes.

- **We have got to see sin for what it is so we can mature and progress in our spiritual life.** The world wants us to continue in it by relying on our feelings. **We need to quit justifying it; instead, we need to reject it.**

#### THE IMPLANTED WORD

The only way a plant can grow well is if it is planted in the proper soil. **It is very difficult for plants to grow in toxic soil. It is also very difficult if there is no seed to be planted.**

- As the Word of God is planted in us, it identifies and removes things that are unacceptable in our lives. Our spiritual growth begins to happen from the inside out.

#### BEING DOERS (JAMES 1:22-25)

#### DOERS AND NOT HEARERS ONLY

During the times of the ancient world, many people would listen to speakers teach. They weren't considered disciples of that teacher until they not only learned from them but also lived like them!

- **Jesus is calling us to be His disciples! That we wouldn't only learn but are continually being transformed to live like Him!**

#### JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

We cannot confuse any of this with a works-based religion. **Justification is the penalty of sin from which all believers have been delivered because Jesus paid the price for it on the cross.**

- **Sanctification is the process by which we are being conformed to look more like Christ!**

#### WORKS BASED LEGALISM

**It can quickly become a works-based religion when we confuse our obedience as a means of justification.** Pride is in full swing during these times.

- **We then start to use things meant for us to experience God's grace as a way to earn God's grace.** This can make it difficult to worship God when we don't hit the mark.

#### LOOKING IN A MIRROR

We can't forget what we look like. **We must remember that we are image bearers and are being made to look more like Christ.**

- We look through a mirror when we are constantly meditating on the Word of God with His Spirit. We also need to allow others who are mature in the faith to act as mirrors and speak into our lives.

#### THE PERFECT LAW OF FREEDOM

How do we find freedom from the law of God? The law points out sin and allows us to come before God in forgiveness.

- **Through the power of the cross, we are given the salvation that frees us from sin's control.** We are then free to live as God created us to live. **We are now free to obey God.**
- **Matthew 22:37-40, CSB**

#### PURE RELIGION (JAMES 1:26-27)

#### OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART

The words that we choose to use and what we talk about will let others know about our faith. **"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).**

- The tongue can dishonor God in many ways such as **gossip, complaining, judging, harsh criticism, and angry outbursts.**

#### RIGHTEOUSNESS NOT RITUALS

Outward rituals such as attending church service and listening to Christian radio cannot substitute **our service to God.**

- **True religion is not an observance of rules, but a spirit deep within our being that escapes through our hearts and lives.**

#### ORPHANS AND WIDOWS

Widows and orphans were the most apparent "poor" in those times, unable to support themselves.

- **We are called to have genuine compassion and involvement with others, especially those that cannot provide for themselves.**

#### UNSTAINED BY THE WORLD

We are called to live within the world **to be a testament to His grace, mercy, and love.** This forces us not to retreat from the world.

- We are called to live in the world but not be a part of the world because we have been set apart. **This is how we partake in trials that help us conform to God's image.**

#### THE IMPLANTED WORD

- We must be slow to speak and quick to listen to both people and God.
- Our anger usually stems from being self-centered instead of others-centered.
- **We need God's Word to help rid things in our hearts that are occupying what is only meant for God.**

#### WE CAN'T BE HEARERS ONLY

- We are called to be Jesus' disciples. This means we are not only to learn about Him but also to live like Him.
- **We can't let the things that allow us to experience God's grace take the place of it.**
- We are freed when we begin to live our lives how we were designed.

#### OUR LIVES SHOULD BE A TESTIMONY

- We need other mature Christians in our lives that will help us see things we can't see.
- We are to be in the world but not stained by the world.
- **We must remember that we are image bearers of Christ and are being made to look more like Him!**