

Listening and Doing

James 1:19-27

Key verses: 1:19, 22

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