

# James' Lesson

Week of May 18 - 24, 2020

## Introduction

The Book of James is more relevant now than ever. With social media we are bombarded with messages of hate and division. How refreshing it would be to turn off our cell phones and logoff from our accounts. Truly we have two ears so we can listen to double of what we say.

## Lesson James 1:19-27

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look

after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

## **Questions**

1. What is the wisdom expressed in Verse 19?
2. What are some characteristics of a wise person you know?
3. What do you think of a person who does what he tells others not to do?
4. What makes it hard for us to be good listeners?
5. What is the relationship between anger and righteous living?
6. How is what you say related to the credibility of your faith?
7. How can you keep yourself from being polluted by the world?
8. What does the world think that the word “religion” means? When someone is described as “religious” on the street, in a book or on a TV show or movie, what is meant?

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord, from the time you called each of us, you’ve asked us to deny ourselves and follow you. You’ve asked us to put you first and others second. You ask us to serve

others like you've served us. In this world that preaches the message, "me first", help us to not gratify ourselves first, but to put others before ourselves. Amen