

Women's Bible Study

January 24, 2018

James 1:19-27 Listening and Doing

Faith and the Word

James 1: 19 "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,"

Faith and the word (James 1:19-27)

Roman's 2:13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

Mark 4:24 "Consider carefully what you hear,"

Luke 8:18 "Therefore, consider carefully how you listen."

Matthew 13:43 "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Proverbs 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

James 1:22-24 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Question: What does James mean when he says "be quick to listen and slow to speak?" Is James talking about being a better listener to your friends, husband or children?

A: A commentary from John MacArthur states it well:

“What James is talking about here is when it comes to hearing the word, be eager to hear it and when it comes to the teaching of the word slow down.” The true believer desires to hear the word, speak the word when prepared to do so, and never exhibit any hostility or smoldering resentment or rebellion against biblical truth. Prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves. One who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, he an effectual doer. This man shall be blessed in what he does. James is talking about a proper reception of the word and secondly a proper response to the word. It is not just what we hear, it's how we hear it. Jesus pointed this out in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13.” Let's read [Matthew 13: 18-23](#)

Kenneth Wuest (Christian New Testament Greek scholar of the mid-Twentieth century) “and stop being hearers only, reasoning yourselves into a false premise and thus deceiving yourselves.”

[John 13:17](#) Now that you **know** these things, you will be blessed if you **do** them.

[Luke 11:28](#) “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

[Matthew 7:24, 26](#) “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”(26)“But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”

[Proverbs 10:19](#) “When the words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

[James 3: 3-12](#) (3)“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. (4) Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. (5) Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. (6) The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (7) All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, (8) but no man can tame

the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (9) With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. (10) Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. (11) Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? (12) My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

Proverbs 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.

James 1:20 "for man's anger does not bring about the **righteous life** that God desires."

Matthew 5:22 "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."

James 1:21 "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."

Ephesians 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

James 2:14-20 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith by what I do. You

believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

James 1:23-24 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

What parable does this remind you of? Is it the seed that fell among the thorns? He hears the word, but worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it making it unfruitful.

James 1:25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it- he will be blessed in what he does.

The perfect law refers to the moral and ethical teaching of Christianity which is based on the OT moral law, as embodied in the Ten Commandments, but brought to completion by Jesus Christ. Freedom is in contrast to the sinner, who is a slave to sin. Obeying the moral law gives the Christian the joyous freedom to be what he was created for.

Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

John 8: 31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

James 2:12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. (James is speaking to believers whose destiny is already determined)

James 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

(James is referring to the outward acts of religion such as giving to the needy, fasting and public acts of praying and worshipping)

1 Peter 3:10 "For, Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech."

James 1:27 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.

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

Romans 12: 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Application Questions

1. Do you pursue every opportunity to eagerly hear the word of truth? Pray about it.
2. James said, "Show me your faith by what you do." Are you a doer?
3. Are you reluctant to share the word with others? How can you change that?