

# JAMES

Hearers Who Do

1:19-25

Where FAITH becomes ACTION



#### So far in James...

- James (brother of Jesus) pulls heavily from the Proverbs and from Jesus (mainly sermon on the mount)
- Point of the whole book Faith and action/ hearing and doing are inseparable
- The testing of our faith through...
  - Trials of various kinds
  - Wisdom/asking God/doubt
  - Wealth
  - Temptation

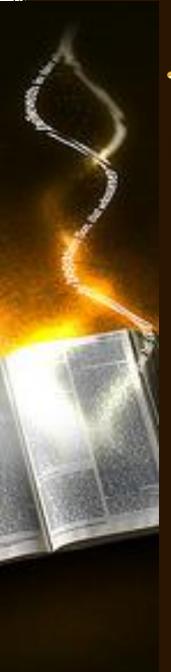


#### James 1:19-25

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.



<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



#### Be a Hearer...

- The call of the disciple of Jesus is to have the posture of a hearer
  - Quick to hear... Eager, thirsty, desire to listen
  - Slow to speak... Not a babbler (Proverbs)
  - Slow to anger... Patient, kind, quick temper



Prov 10:19... When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Prov 17:27... Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Prov 29:20... Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Prov 14:29... Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.



#### Be a Hearer...

- The call of the disciple of Jesus is to have the posture of a hearer
  - Quick to hear... Eager, thirsty, desire to listen
  - Slow to speak... Not a babbler (Proverbs)
  - Slow to anger... Patient, kind, quick temper
  - Repentant... Turns from obvious sin
  - Humble... Under God's word, inner lawyer
- Descriptive of someone who wants to learn – someone committed to discovery



#### Be a Hearer Who Does...

Confronts the argument that one can listen to the word, but not do what it says
Side Note: Argument that Paul and James disagree (James is legalist)

Paul in Romans 2:13... For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.



- Confronts the argument that one can listen to the word, but not do what it says
  - Hearing but not doing is an act of self-deceit
  - If we do not do what we hear/read, we will not remember it
  - Looking into God's word intently (committed to discovery) and putting it into practice (committed to demonstrating)



Matt 7:24-27... <sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."



- Confronts the argument that one can listen to the word, but not do what it says
  - Hearing but not doing is an act of self-deceit
  - If we do not do what we hear/read, we will not remember it
  - Looking into God's word intently (committed to discovery) and putting it into practice (committed to demonstrating)
  - Blessing promised to those who act on what they hear



- So what's the problem?
  - We live in a culture saturated with information and knowledge but lacking in character and integrity
  - The church (people who follow Jesus) is often no different
  - The average believer's greatest need is not more knowledge, but rather to put into practice what he already knows
  - Christian community is meant to help us be doers



- Why do we fall into this trap?
  - Fascination with discovery (it's more fun!)
  - Products of a consumer culture
  - Apathy it's easier to forget
  - Disbelief We don't trust that God's way is better than ours
  - Pride we want to go our own way, elevate ourselves and our opinions over the word
  - We are not "eager" (quick) to hear the word



- Lessons from James so far...
  The testing of our faith through...
  - Trials are you more aware of Christ in your trials? Have you dismissed the perspective of "count it pure joy"?
  - Wisdom when trials come, do you go to God first? Do you rely on his wisdom?
  - Faith & Doubt do you allow your doubts to hold you hostage?
  - Wealth is your wealth what you boast in?
     Do you think your wealth makes you special?



- Lessons from James so far...
  The testing of our faith through...
  - Temptation what measures have you put in your life to help you?
  - Every Good Thing do you acknowledge they are from God?



- How do we make the switch?
  - Real Community people who know you, love you, and can call you on your junk
  - Commitment to both discovering and demonstrating the life of Jesus (hearing and doing)
  - Be eager to hear the word, receive it humbly, and be accountable to others to put it into practice