

# JAMES



Hearers Who Do

1:19-25

Where FAITH becomes ACTION



# JAMES 1:19-25

## 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

# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

## 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; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.



# J A M E S    1 : 1 9 - 2 5

<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. <sup>25</sup> 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.



# JAMES 1:19-25

## 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~~





# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

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.



# JAMES 1:19-25

## 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*

# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

## 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.**



# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

- ▣ 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)



# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

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. <sup>25</sup>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.”



# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

- 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





# JAMES 1:19-25

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

### ▣ 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

# JAMES 1:19-25

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

### ■ 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





# JAMES 1:19-25

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

### ▣ 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?

# JAMES 1:19-25

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

### ▣ 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?



# J A M E S 1 : 1 9 - 2 5

## Be a Hearer Who Does...

### ▣ 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

