

Walk the Talk
2-15-26 / Mark McCartin
James 1:22-27

**I. The challenge we all must face:
Confusing information with transformation.**

1. The Pivotal Question: What Will We Do With What We Hear?

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

2. The Danger of Self-Deception

II. The Mirror Illustration:

James 1:23–25 *"Anyone who listens... is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror..."*

1. The Nature of the Mirror (vv. 23–24)

"Looks" = attentive scrutiny (not casual glance).

Mirrors reveal — what needs our attention & action

2. What the "Mirror" Shows Us

a. _____ We Are and _____ We Are in Christ 1 Jh 2:12–14

- Made in God's image.
- Infinitely loved.
- Redeemed, forgiven, adopted.

b. Who We Are _____ 1 Jh 2:1–2, 6

- Christ our advocate.
- Called to walk as He walked.

III. The Blessed Life Comes from Looking Intently and Doing

James 1:25 *"The man who looks intently... and continues... not forgetting... but doing... will be blessed."*

A. "Looks Intently"

- Greek: to stoop and examine carefully.
- John and Mary at the tomb (John 20:5, 11).
- Not casual interest — careful engagement.

B. Two Ways to Hear

1. The intentional listener:
Asks: "What does this mean for me?"
2. The spectator listener:

C. The Difference Between Blessed and Deceived

- Both heard the same Word.
- The difference was not exposure — but obedience.

John 13:17 *"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." Blessing is tied to obedience, not awareness.*

Reflect Discuss

1. Why does James say hearing without doing is self-deception?
2. What stood out to you in the mirror illustration?
3. What does it mean to "look intently" into Scripture?
4. When it comes to being "doers of the word and not mere hearers", Why is critical that "the mirror of the word" reveals both who we are and what we are yet to become?
5. Which of the three gaps (1:26-22 speech, compassion, conformity) is most convicting right now?
6. Where have you confused information with transformation?
7. Are you more likely to be an "intentional listener" or a "spectator listener"?
8. How can you build a habit of reviewing the scriptures heard, read, taught... so that you don't "forget" and can more effectively put into practice

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