

LOOKING AHEAD

Week 3: James 1:26-2:13

1. James 1:26 says that a religious person with an unbridled tongue is a contradiction, their religion is worthless and they only deceive themselves. An unbridled tongue may be someone who is over opinionated, domineering, manipulative, uses harsh or foul language, lies, flatters, gossips, etc...
 - What damage have you seen an unbridled tongue do to the cause of Christ or His Church (ie. the fellowship of believers)?
 - What habits of speech do you need to repent of?
2. Has there ever been a time when you met someone and you were impressed by their status? In that instance, how did their status influence your thinking or behavior?
3. Jesus honored people from every level of society, from the wealthy aristocrat to the slave. Look at these verses in the Bible to see who Jesus valued in his ministry:
 - Luke 7:36
 - Mark 8:22
 - Mark 10:17-31
 - Mark 10:46-52
4. In verse 5, God gives two gifts to the poor. What are they? Why do you think James adds these things in his letter to believers?
5. Look up Matthew 5:3-12. What does Jesus say about those who are poor and ostracized by society?
6. Think about your life - the pace of it, the people you interact with, activities you're involved in. Do you have an awareness of people who are on the fringes and starving for meaningful fellowship? What is one change that you could make this week, to become more proactive in inviting others into your circle of fellowship and influence?
7. Can you recall an instance that you have seen mercy triumph over justice?