

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER – JAMES 1:19-27

Intro: Scripture reading. We have been born again through the word of truth and as firstfruits we are the property of God. We belong to him. So how should we act? We are warned three times in this chapter to not be deceived. V. 16, 22, and 26. Listening and speaking are both involved in being deceived. Actions speak louder than words and louder than worship.

I. HOW TO BE RIGHTEOUS – JAMES 1:19-21

- A. Quick to listen
- B. Slow to speak and slow to become angry
- C. Take off what's dirty
- D. Accept the word with meekness – prautus – gentleness, opposite of bad temper or roughness, mild and friendly which does not become embittered but keeps composed

II. HOW TO BE BLESSED – JAMES 1:22-25

- A. Don't be deceived – action must accompany hearing
- B. Take a good look and act on it
- C. Take a good look habitually, act on it, and be blessed.

III. HOW TO BE RELIGIOUS – JAMES 1:26-27

- A. Controlled tongue
- B. Compassionate heart
- C. Clean life

Conclusion: The temptation of the tongue is difficult under stress. We are easily angered when persecuted. Our mouths need to speak out of testimony not temptation. His word is about transformation not information. His word is about action not idleness. His word is proven true by our response to the helpless around us, even in difficult situations. Actions speak louder.