

James: Faith & Works

Week 2 - Listening & Doing

Big Idea: Believers are to both hear (receive) the Word and act upon it. The person who both listens and responds is blessed in his/her doing.

Scripture: James 1:19-27, Matthew 7:24-25

Admittedly, this passage of scripture, and the book of James, is a tough pill to swallow. There is much to feel conviction about and much to consider in our lives when we truly stop to consider what things we are actually *doing* in response to our *hearing*.

- Do my words align with the Christian witness I profess?
- Am I letting my anger turn into sin? Am I obstinate?
- What have I done lately in response to my faith?
- Do I talk more than I act?
- Does listening matter if I don't respond?

These are a few of the questions that cross my mind, and I'm sure you have more to add to the list. But in the midst of the conviction that comes from a passage like this, it's important to remember the heart behind it all, which is the very heart of God.

The same God who is compassionate and loving and sent His one and only Son to redeem mankind. This same God wants us to be realistic about our faith and think clearly about the things that may be hindering us from experiencing our best in Him.

So, if there is anything holding you back from action today, would you consider letting it go? Would you commit to praying this week that God would give you the courage to "go" as the great commission says, and to respond in righteousness to the goodness of the gospel message.

Prayer: *"God in heaven, give us the courage to be people of action. Help us to not only hear and receive, but also to respond in righteousness to the high calling of Christ."*