



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: FAITH at WORK

Message: “Your Actions & Mouth will Tell on You!”

DATE: February 6, 2022

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

James 1:19-27, Ezekiel 33:30-32, Revelations 1:13, 1 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Peter 2:1, Galatians 6:2, Romans 12:2, Ecclesiastes 7:9, John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:2, James 3:18, Romans 5:17, Psalm 19:7, Matthew 5:17, **Jeremiah 31:33**

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[James 1:19-27]

“¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

*²¹ Therefore put away all **filthiness and rampant wickedness and** receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ 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. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ 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.*

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

“I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts...”

-GOD (Jeremiah 31:33)

TERMS & BACKGROUND:

[v21 WICKEDNESS] “Wickedness” (NASB) in this context must refer to unrighteous anger (1:20);

[v21 MEEKNESS] “Meekness” (KJV) is the virtue of the nonresistant.

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jas 1:21.

[DOERS OF THE WORD] “Receiving the word (1:21) meant more than hearing it; they had to live accordingly (1:19–20). (The proposal that “the ingrafted word” refers to the Stoic concept of “innate reason,” using similar language, fails on this point: “innate” reason need not be “received.”) Although most Jewish teachers (some disagreed) valued learning the law above practicing it—because *they held that practice depended on knowledge*—they all agreed that both were necessary to fulfill the law. That one must not only know but must also obey truth was common moral wisdom, which the readers would not dispute.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jas 1:22.

[MIRRORS OF THAT DAY] “The best mirrors were of Corinthian bronze, but no mirrors of that period produced the accurate images available today (cf. 1 Cor 13:12). Those with enough resources to own mirrors used them when fixing their hair; if James alludes to such people, he portrays the forgetful hearer as stupid. More likely, he refers to many people who had no mirrors and saw themselves rarely, who might more naturally forget their own appearance.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jas 1:23–24.

[v21 PUT AWAY] “Putting away (ἀποθεμενοι [*apothemenoī*]). Second aorist middle participle of ἀποτιθημι [*apotithēmi*], to put off, metaphor of removing clothing”

A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Jas 1:21.

[IMPLANTED] “*emphutos* (ἔμφυτος, 1721), “implanted,” or “rooted” (from *emphuo*, “to implant”), is used in Jas. 1:21, rv, “implanted,” for KJV, “engrafted,” of the Word of God, as the “rooted word,” i.e., a word whose property it is to root itself like a seed in the heart. “The KJV seems to identify it with *emphuteuton*, which however would be out of place here, since the word is sown, not grafted, in the heart” (Mayor).

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 321.

[v22 BUT BE] (γινεσθε δε [*ginesthe de*]). Rather, “But keep on becoming” (present middle imperative of γινομαι [*ginomai*]).

A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Jas 1:22.

[THE PERFECT LAW] “The perfect law (νομον τελειον [*nomon teleion*]). For τελειον [*teleion*] see 1:17. See Rom. 7:12 for Paul’s idea of the law of God. James here refers to the word of truth (1:18), the gospel of grace (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:2).

A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Jas 1:25.

[THE LAW OF LIBERTY] “That of liberty,” explaining why it is “perfect” (2:12 also), rests on the work of Christ, whose truth sets us free”

A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Jas 1:25.

OUTLINE

I. (v19-20) SIMMER DOWN

A. (v19) “*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be **quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...***”

1. Receive the word with the attitude of humility

a) “**Quick to hear**”- This speaks to our need to hear God’s word for our Spiritual Maturing

b) “**Slow to Speak**”- This speaks to our understanding that we must be trained by the word before we can help others

(1) **Galatians 6:1-2** “*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*”

c) “**Slow to Anger**”- We must interact with the word of God and allow God to do His work of preparing us, tempering us to be ministers and not tempted to get even

(1) **Ecclesiastes 7:9** “*Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.*”

B. (v20) “... for **the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**”

1. “Anger of Man”- unrighteous and self-centered anger versus righteous anger

a) **Ephesians 4:26-27** “*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil*

(1) Righteous anger is pointed at the Sin and not at people themselves and it is in defense of God’s

righteousness (It offends God therefore it offends me)

(2) Unrighteous anger only defends us and only contrast lifts up self

2. "Does not produce the righteousness of God"-

a) **Proverbs 29:11** "A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back."

(1) Sinful/unrighteous anger causes strife in the home

(2) Sinful/unrighteous anger causes strife in the family of God (Church)

APPLICATION:

- Are you angry because sin has tarnished God's creation or are you angry because you have been done wrong?
 - It would pay us to do as James says and listen to the Word of God more than we speak and to be cautious of our words that they do not contradict God's word.
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II. (v21-27) STAND FIRM

A. (v21) "*Therefore **put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.***"

1. Because we are aware of the dangers as we are trained by His word "**therefore**":

a) "**Put away Filthiness**"- (lay aside Dirty Garments) Moral uncleanness

b) Put away "**Rampant Wickedness**"- Overabundance of badness, evil, depravity

c) "**Receive**" the Implanted Word"- indicates submissiveness to the word

d) Receive the Implanted Word "**with Meekness**"- "not in a person's "outward behavior only; nor yet in his relations to his fellow-men; as little in his mere natural disposition.

Rather it is an inwrought grace of the soul, and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God."

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 401.

e) "**The Implanted word**"- (See other notes)

f) ***“Is able to Save Your Souls”***- The Word of God is able to give us deliverance from the power of Sin

B. (v22) ***“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...”***

1. ***“Be doers of the Word”***- We are to hear the word and apply the word to our lives and in doing so we evidence that we really believe and understand the instruction given to us.
2. Not Hearing only... ***“Decieving yourselves”***- meaning we have reasoned wrong, and by default are in danger.

C. (v23-24) ***“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. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.”***

1. ***The Man in the Mirror***- The Man who looks at himself and then forgets or treats the facts with no respect; this man forgets:
 - a) *Who He is in Christ (belongs to Christ)*
 - b) *What he has been called to do in the Kingdom of God (We are all ministers/servants)*

D. (v25) ***“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.”***

1. Identity in Christ Changes our Actions
2. How we respond to others is a clear indicator of our maturity and of our faith in Jesus
3. God will always bless the doer of the word
 - a) *Multiply his efforts for the kingdom*
 - b) *Give more Spiritual fruit to share with those He/She serves*
 - c) *Love and Joy and Peace especially multiply to the faithful doer*

E. (v26) ***“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”***

1. The Unbridled tongue is evidence of our Spiritual State
 - a) ***Self Control***- If the tongue is razor-sharp cutting people we know that person is for self
 - b) ***Unselfishness***- If the tongue is not seeking to give grace to those who hear we know the Lord is not speaking through them to others

(1) ***Ephesians 4:29-30*** ***“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**”***

(a) Our tongues can grieve the Holy Spirit

c) **Worthless-** The life of the uncontrolled person is of no use to God at all... Speech/witness is “without force” or power.

F. (v27) “**Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**”

1. What is pure and undefiled religion? What person is right before God?

a) **The One Serving-** How we respond to others is a clear indicator of our maturity and of our faith in Jesus

b) **Witness-** in the world is one of selflessness and giving

APPLICATION:

- James is making it clear that we can be deceived about our Spiritual state and our doing tells us where our heart really is!
- We need to examine to see how the Word of God is working through our lives and if we do not see our faith at work do we really believe?

“Regeneration assures us of deliverance from the penalty of sin, but the word of God received and applied is able to deliver us from the power of sin...”

-Howard Eyrich
