

"Right Identity and Right Thinking produces Right Living" Week 4: James 1:19-27

Read passage together.

James continues to throw some gut punches in this passage. However, before he does he reminds us of who we are in Christ. He calls us beloved brothers. This is a reminder that we are loved, and we are sons and daughters of God. The 2 most important things that a believer should know, is who God (Father, Son and Spirit) is and who they are in Christ. Before we "do" anything for God, we are called to "be" with Him.

Questions

- 1. Who is God (Father, Son, Spirit) to you?
- 2. Most people have a false belief about who they are, and it is usually formed at an early age. What is the core belief about yourself?
- 3. What does God say about who you are?
- 4. How can you be reminded of who you are in Christ daily?

After James reminds us of who we are, he then gives us some wisdom on how we should live. He addresses the emotion of anger. Anger is a God given emotion that we tend to use wrong. James doesn't say don't get angry, he says be slow to anger.

Questions:

- 1. Anger is usually just smoke from a fire. It is an emotion caused by something going on in your heart. What causes you to get angry?
- 2. Verse 21 tells us how we can combat ungodly anger in us. He basically says get into the word and let it get in you. This is "being" with God and letting him change your heart and mind. How much time have you spent this week with God through prayer and bible reading?

James moves on in verses 23-27 and talks about being hearers and doers of the word. Hearing and listening are 2 different things. You can listen, but not hear anything. Once you hear something, it gets into your heart and mind. So, anytime we "hear" the word preached, it should cause us to respond. If there is never a response, then James said we deceive ourselves. Jesus told the multitude of people "why do you call me Lord and don't do what I say?" If Jesus is Lord, this means He gets to tell you what to do and not to do. No actions really show that our faith is false. James then jumps into talking about religion. The religious people knew the scriptures, but they never really "heard" them. They really had a false identity and false thinking, and it showed in their living. They thought they were good with God because of what they did. What this produced is white washed tombs. They looked good from the outside, but on the inside they were dead.

Questions:

- 1. What is the last thing that God told you to do?
- 2. Why aren't you doing it?

Important announcements:

- Recovery Jam is Sept 29th, at 4pm. It will be located at the Toomsboro Park. Please get the word out. Share Facebook image and T-shirt link. T-shirts are \$20.
- Baptisms will be held this Sunday (9/1/24). If your next step is baptism, please contact Pastor Stanley.
- Invite 3 unchurched people to church this week! Live on mission!

