



PART 4: WHAT NOW?

Sermon Notes

Text: James 1:21-27

Introduction:

Do it! Just Do it!

James' mirror illustration compares and contrasts two types of heart attitudes when approaching Scripture: 1) "Meh. Good enough." 2) humble learning

Common myths about doing what the Bible says:

Myth #1. Hearing is Just Showing Up

vs. 21. "humbly accept the Word of God planted in you."

James alludes to the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

God's word is being scattered on every heart without favouritism, but only the soft heart produces a harvest of good works.

Myth #2. Talking About Doing What the Bible Says is the Same as Doing What it Says

vs. 26 "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."

Illustration: Clean your room.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" - Luke 6:46

Talking about how to live out our faith is important. But it is far more important to live it out the best way we know how.

Myth #3. Not Sinning = Following Jesus

vs. 25 Following Gods Word brings freedom

"The Christian loves God's commandments and is eager to obey them."
- R.V.G. Tasker

James 4:17 "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

Being a doer of the Word includes both separateness from sin and good works. You can't have one without the other.

Conclusion:

Be confident that your righteousness is 'in Christ' not in our good works or lack thereof.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Has you or someone you know ever talked a “big game” but didn’t have what it took to back it up? Share your stories.

Study & Discussion:

1. Read James 1:19-27. What stands out to you? What verse or phrase challenges you the most? Do you see any similarities to our culture? in your life?
2. Read Matthew 7:21-23 Compare and contrast it with James 1:19-27. What are the similarities? Differences?
3. Read James 2:14-26. What stands out to you? What relationship does faith and action have in our faith? Can you have one without the other? Is your life characterized by both faith and works? How can we work in community to help each other in this?

Application:

1. Pray for God’s direction. then take time as a group discussing how you can (as a group) bless your community. Finally, come up with a practical plan and do it!

Prayer:

1. Pray for the strength to do what the Bible teaches
2. Other requests
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