
3 Words, Words, Words

James 1:19-27

We all do it. It's as common as flies around a horse. While someone else is talking, we're thinking about what we're going to say next instead of about what is being said to us. We know others are worth more care and attention. But the habit is hard to break.

God wants us to slow down and listen too. But even when we've really listened to him, we're still not done. This study gives us practical help on listening and more.

1. How do you feel when someone really hears you?

Why is it so difficult to be a good listener?

2. Read James 1:19-27. How can being quick to listen and slow to speak help us be slow to become angry (v. 19)?

3. How could the commands in verse 19 affect the way your small group or Christian fellowship interacts?

4. When have you experienced the truth that "man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires" (v. 20)?

5. James tells us that God's Word was planted in us. What weeds can choke that Word and keep it from growing (v. 21)? Explain.

6. In your own words explain how the person who merely listens is different from the one who puts God's Word into practice (vv. 22-25).

7. Why is there a tendency for Christians to listen to and yet not to follow God's Word?

How can you avoid this tendency?

8. According to verses 26 and 27 how do people who *think* they are religious differ from those who are truly religious?

9. How do these verses summarize what God desires from us?

10. Give some specific examples of how your religion could become more “pure and faultless”?

11. Based on what you’ve read in this chapter, do you think James would be satisfied with good works apart from our listening to and receiving God’s Word? Explain.

12. Ask God to help you become a better listener and doer of his Word.