Lesson 20 James 1:19-27

Quit Kidding Yourself

1. What do you learn about what God wants from us in these verses (19-27)?

19 Know this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to hear,\* slow to speak, slow to wrath,

20 for the wrath of a man does not accomplish the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror.

24 He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like.

25 But the one who peers into the perfect law\* of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue\* but deceives his heart, his religion is vain.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows\* in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

2. How can being "quick to hear/listen" and "slow to speak" help us be slow to become angry (vs. 19)?

3. In what ways is God's Word a mirror?

4. What's the point of the mirror image?

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

6. How can we prepare our hearts to receive God's Word?

7. What mistakes could we make when we look into God's mirror? See Matt. 13:13.

This is why I speak to them in parables, because ‘they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand (Matthew 13:13)

8. A. What often gets substituted for doing the Word?

B. Why do you think this happens?

9. What from God's Word in this lesson, will you put in action this week?

10. Challenge Question: Why would James say in vs. 26 that an unbridled tongue deceives the heart and renders religion vain?

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue\* but deceives his heart, his religion is vain.