

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

James 1:19-25--December 29th, 2024



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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **Mirror, Mirror On the Wall**

What do we do with all that we have heard in 2024?

#### **I. Preparation for the Word**

- If we are going to come to the Word of God, we need to prepare ourselves to come in a correct manner.
  - “Put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness.”
    - “all filthiness”- closely related to the term used for wax in the ear.
    - “rampant wickedness”- a lie in the heart, ill-will, evil intentions in the heart.
  - “Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”
    - Two interpretations:
      - Hear the word, guard your speech, put away sinful anger.
        - sin prevents proper hearing of God’s Word.
      - Hear the Word, do not argue to the Word, do not get angry with the Word.
    - Both interpretations have good applications.
      - When we come before the Word of God, we come before the God of the Word.
        - We cannot come to God or His Word while embracing sin.
      - The truth offends.
        - Humbly submit to the Word, listening to it, instead of growing angry and arguing with it. To receive the Word we must be open to it.

#### **II. Receiving the Word**

- “Receive with meekness the implanted word.”
  - Welcome it with a teachable spirit.
  - “Implanted”
    - The Word is like a seed that must be implanted in our hearts.
    - The Word is like a seed; powerful and able to bring growth.
- “Be doers of the word and not hearers only.”
  - “Hearing” the word is assumed. Genuine believers have a longing to hearing and know God’s Word.
  - “Doers”- This is the imperative/application. It’s not enough to hear the word; you must do the word. The word must be applied. It must be obeyed.
- V.23-24--James uses the illustration of the mirror.
  - Mirrors at this time were only polished, bronze plates. It provided only a distorted view. Only the rich owned them. It was common to see a mirror so rarely, without actually knowing what they looked like. They would forget.
    - The point here that James is making is if you are a hearer of the word and now a doer of the word you’re like someone who saw his face in this polished bronze mirror. You saw your face, but then you pretty quickly forgot what you look like, because you have forgotten the word.
      - Don’t be a forgetful hearer, be an active doer.
        - V.25- This leads to a “blessed” (fulfilled) life.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How do we prepare ourselves to receive God's Word?
- "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." What does James mean by this?
- "\_\_\_\_\_ prevents proper hearing of God's Word."
- How is the Word like a seed?
- Why do believers need to hear the Word?
- What must a believer do after hearing the Word?
- How is God's Word like a mirror?
- What is the danger of a careless, casual glance at the Word?
- What is the good news James provides to those who "do the Word?"
- What does "blessed" mean?

## **Application:**

- What does your relationship with the Word of God look like?
- Do you "prepare" yourself to receive His Word in your personal study? In preparation for corporate worship?
- Is it more common for you to find yourself submitting to the Word or arguing and growing angry with the Word?
- In what areas could you improve your "doing" of the Word? Who can you reach out to to help you with this?
- Would your time in the Word be more likened to a glance or a peering?
- What have you heard in 2024 that you need to apply in 2025?

