



Date: September 30, 2018
Scripture: James 1:19-25
Series: Heart of a Disciple



“Come follow me.” Words Jesus spoke to two people who would be part of a movement that God used to transform people lives. What would it mean for Jesus to ask you to follow him? Explore the heart behind **someone who says, “I follow Jesus.”**

James Overview:

Author and Date: James the half brother of Jesus around 45 A.D.

First readers and their location: James was first written to Jewish followers of Jesus. They were probably living in an unknown Roman city where Greek was the primary language.

Why was it written?: These followers of Jesus were being abused and used by wealthy neighbors. James wrote to **encourage and challenge them to truly, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (2:8) and express a pure religion (1:27).** For James, faith without a true outward expression of love for others was dead religion.

Open-up

Is there anything from the reading plan that impacted you this week?

Listening well to voices who care can be a matter of life and death for people like Erik Weihenmayer. Have you ever had an **experience where your “listening” determined whether you passed or failed, lived or died, had joy or sorrow?**



Into the Bible

Read: James 1:19-25

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, **repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points...**) **Ask the question, "What does it say?"** (For more help on effective Bible Study see the resources at the back)

What issue was James addressing with these Jewish believers?

What is the comparison between our human tendencies and a **life saturated in God's word?**

What does James present as a useful and useless expression of religion? What could be a modern day example of this?



Into my life

Ask the question, "What does this look like in my life?"

James says we are to be quick to listen and slow to speak...and that we are to "humbly accept" the word planted already in us. What aspects of your life do you find a struggle to listen to what God has already said about a matter? Why might this be?

Conversely, there are areas in our lives in which God's Word has gained victory. What are those and what has helped you to move towards increased maturity and victory?

Simply “hearing” God’s Word does not produce much fruit. It needs to move beyond into “doing” something. James uses an illustration of a mirror to describe how God’s Word works in a disciple’s life.

Examination – don’t just glance at God’s Word, go deeper

Restoration – the Word of God represents washing (John 15:3, Eph. 5:26, I John 1:9)

Transformation – the Word of God seeks to transform, metamorphosis (2 Cor. 3:18)

How has this been your experience with the Bible?

What have you “heard” from God’s Word in the past few weeks that needs to move to “doing?”

Are you currently being disobedient in some clear matter of faith and life and desire to move toward obedience? What is **God’s Word and God’s Spirit saying?** They will never contradict one another.

What blessings have you experienced because you “heard” God’s Word and actively practiced what it said?



Into the World

Ask, “what does this look like in my church or world?”

Is there an area in your world where God’s word needs to speak? (Pray for each other in this)

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week?
(Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...Bring Jesus into Life...By...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



GO

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world