

4. When you are angry, do you make sure the person knows by responding in anger?
5. When you look at Scripture, do you truly let it examine your heart and actions before a holy God? Are you afraid? Are you stubborn? Read Galatians 5:1
6. How does repentance begin the process of the law giving you freedom?

### **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES FOR THIS WEEK:**

(Missionary of the Week: Deatricks to the Solomon Islands)

# **JAMES:**

## **A SERVANT OF GOD**

### *Connection Point Groups Week #3*

### **CONNECTION POINT GROUPS PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Developing lifelong relationships that influence others to live and love like Jesus.

**TONIGHT'S TEXT: JAMES 1:19-27** *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*

**INTRODUCTION:** From the checkout-line magazine rack to radio talk shows to the comments section of Facebook and hard-hitting political opinion television, our culture is saturated



**FAITHWAY** Planting A Passion For God  
BAPTIST CHURCH

and obsessed with expressing the latest gripe. Everyone has an argumentative inner lawyer seated on the throne of their hearts. Whether the angry words are spoken or simmer under the surface of a calm countenance, we all have fallen into the trap of a loudmouthed rant. James has a good word for us: listen up, quiet down, bite your tongue, and walk the talk. Otherwise Religion is worthless.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE TEXT:**

James instructed Christians how to listen, speak, express anger constructively, to be pure and undefiled, and to practice healthy self-examination, in order to avoid self-deception. Clearly, James' blunt speech was not an effort to people-please. Though James may seem stern, he spoke the truth in love, a love that was no doubt stoked by having a front row seat to Jesus' ministry of love and service to others.

1. What happens when we don't listen well to others, comment too swiftly, or are quick to become angry?
2. How do we deceive ourselves as Christians?

### **INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT:**

James instructs us on how to avoid turning trials into temptations with His wisdom regarding speech and obedience. If we allow our anger to control us, we will not truly listen to people, and we will sin in our anger. Read Proverbs 15:1.

As Christians, if we say we accept God's Word that means we also need to live by it. Otherwise, we become hypocrites. If we only listen to or read His word but don't meditate on it and allow it to change us, James says our "religion is worthless" God's Word should affect all areas of our lives, if we are willing to humbly accept it.

1. What prevents you from being able to see God's Word clearly? What phrases in these passages reflect a sinful, prideful heart?
2. What does it mean to be a doer of the word and not only a hearer? How does the picture in verse 23-24 illustrate this?
3. What is the perfect law of liberty? What gives freedom? What keeps us from freedom?
4. How is bridling our tongue and deceiving our hearts connected?
5. What does it mean to "*Keep himself unspotted from the world*"?

### **APPLYING THIS BIBLE PASSAGE TO OUR LIVES:**

James' words are probably convicting to each of us in some way. He is also encouraging us as he gives solutions, if we are willing to use them, Getting rid of filth and wickedness is much like taking muddy, dirty clothes off and replacing them with clean ones. Read 1 Corinthians 6:10-11. Who washes us?

1. Do you know how to listen well or are you thinking about how you want to respond even before the person has finished speaking?
2. Do you ask the Holy Spirit to give you words to speak, or do you just give your opinion quickly? According to this passage, what could you do differently?