

Home group discussion questions—17th January 2016

Working it out: James 1:19-27

1. We live in an age of “soundbites”: what do you see as their advantages and disadvantages?
2. Soundbites, like proverbs, have a way of capturing a truth in a memorable way (though it may be only a partial truth!).
 - It has been said that this passage is an exploration of the proverb quoted by James in 1:19: *Everyone should be...*
 - *Slow to anger* (developed in 1:20-21)
 - *Quick to listen* (developed in 1:22-25)
 - *Slow to speak* (developed in 1:26)
3. *Slow to anger*: What is the problem with the anger here?
 - How can such an emotion be controlled? How can we distinguish righteous anger from self-centred attempts to get our own way?
 - What does verse 21b mean?
4. *Quick to listen – remember - and act accordingly*:
 - What are the marks of a good listener? Is this a gift or can it be learned?
 - Someone says, “I have forgotten most of the sermons I have heard over the years”. Does this matter?
 - Why does hypocrisy often seem to be an occupational hazard of being a Christian?
5. *Slow to speak*: Do quiet people have a natural advantage in holiness over chatterboxes?
6. Verse 26: Is James’ definition of true religion too limited?
7. Can you suggest a title or summary of this passage? What will you take home from it today?

Pray for the most vulnerable in today’s society.