

Bible Study Handout: James 1:19-27 (NKJV)

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today, seeking wisdom and understanding from Your Word. Open our hearts to receive Your truth and guide our discussion so that we may grow in faith and obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Passage: James 1:19-27 (NKJV)

"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think James emphasizes being "swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath"? How does this apply to our daily lives?
2. What does it mean to "receive with meekness the implanted word"? How can we cultivate a heart that receives God's Word?
3. James compares a hearer of the Word to someone looking in a mirror. What is the significance of this comparison?
4. What are some practical ways we can be "doers of the word" in our daily walk with Christ?
5. How does James define "pure and undefiled religion"? How can we apply this definition to our own faith?

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions:

1. "Let every man be _____ to hear, _____ to speak, _____ to wrath." (v. 19)
2. "Be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves." (v. 22)
3. "For if anyone is a _____ of the word and not a _____, he is like a man observing his natural face in a _____." (v. 23)
4. "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit _____ and _____ in their trouble." (v. 27)
5. "And to keep oneself _____ from the _____." (v. 27)

Key Takeaways:

- Listening before speaking is crucial for living a godly life.
- God's Word must be received with humility and acted upon.
- True faith is demonstrated through obedience and care for others.
- Pure religion is more than rituals; it is reflected in how we love and serve others.

Closing Prayer: Father God, thank You for Your Word that guides us in truth. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Teach us to not only hear Your Word but to live it out daily. May we care for those in need and remain unspotted from the world. Strengthen us to walk in obedience and reflect Your love in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.