

Datr: October 1, 2023
Series Title: Faith Works
Message Title: Hearing and Doing
Text: James 1:19-27

Illustration

- Car reservations
- Flight promises
- It is not in the stating... but in the doing

James has called for unity by addressing all the brethren (all saints).
He has addressed the call to faith and challenged them to not walk in disbelief.
He has said that the sins that beset them are as a result of following their own desires.
And finally, in his opening words, he lays out the Good father's will for them...

- ...that through the word of truth, they should come forth as firstfruits.
 - As set, apart, consecrated people to be an example of what God's harvest should look like.

ARE YOU WILLING TO LISTEN?

James 1:19-21

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Quick to hear v 19

Regard the Relationship

- With One another – Yes – Chapter 3
 - This can easily and should be applied to our human connections and relationships
 - We could use the way we treat one another as a barometer of what may also be taking place between you and God
- But we are now talking about your conversation with God
- Are you Quick to hear God

Revelation 3:18-20

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

- He is standing at your door.
- Hear Him.
- Join Him.
- Dine with Him.

Receive the Word Humbly

- Receive with meekness the implanted word

1 Thess. 2:13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Slow to Speak: v 19

Stop Interrupting His Word

- Yeah, but...
- Stop talking. I have more to say to you.

Proverbs 18:13

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

- God cannot get a word in.
 - You do not read His word.
 - You argue with every text that you do read.
 - You tell God a lot, but never listen.
- How about, be quiet and listen for a change?

Stop justifying your reasons

- I do this and that and am not so bad.
- I learned that long ago.
- That is so elementary.
- I already heard that.
- I am doing good.

Galatians 2:16

... yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Stop Arguing with His Spirit

- I am not ready to conquer that.
- I don't want to stop doing what your teaching me about.
- I want to keep doing what I want to do.
- Who are you to judge me?
 - You can spew that to every person you may meet.
 - But you cannot spew that to God – he has every right to shut you down.

1 Thess. 5:19-22

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

- We can quench the Spirit, grieve the Spirit, ignore the Spirit.

Slow to anger: v 19

The Aim is Righteousness

- Anger does not produce righteousness
- Remember that you have been made righteous in Christ

2 Cor. 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Argumentative nature with God will not bring about any good production

Acting On instead of Acting Out

- Put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness.
- Naughtiness
- Stop acting as an unclean person.
- The tendency is to say – I am not doing this or that.
 - But it is our mind and attitude and desires from the heart that continue to behave as if they are not righteous.
 - A naughty child

Romans 6:19

I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO ACT?

James 1:22-25

²² *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* ²³ *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.* ²⁴ *For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.* ²⁵ *But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

The hearers who do not act... v 22-24

...Are deceived by themselves. v 22

- If you hear but do not do – you are deceived.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

- James says we cannot expect anything from God.
- If we sow in the Spirit, we reap of the Spirit.

...Are ignorant by themselves. v 23-24

- Looks intently – forgets immediately
- Ignores what is known

Isa. 48:18

Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments. Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;

Ephesians 4:18

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

- The hard heart allows for us to know what is needed and not to do it.

The hearer who *does* act... v 25

...Sees Liberty

- Perfect law the law of liberty
 - First letter written – before Paul
 - There is no “canonized text” of Paul floating around on liberty
 - Galatians had not been written
- What law of liberty?
 - It is the Gospel.
 - That I have been made new and now have a new nature.
 - Walk in the Spirit and not the desires of the flesh.

John 8:31-32

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

...Perseveres in the doing

- Keep on keeping on.
- The battle continues between the flesh and the Spirit.
- We must press on.

Hebrews 10:36

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

...Is Blessed IN THE DOING

Deut. 28:1-2

¹ And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

ARE YOU GOING TO OBEY?

James 1:26

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless

Learn how to talk with God. v26

- Not learn how to talk to God
 - This is a call back to being slow to speak and quick to listen

- We love to tell God a lot of things.

Psalm 85:8

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

- Rarely are we still and ask Him to speak.
- The world says:
 - Oprah's guest – "Sane is talking to God / Insane is hearing from God."
 - Do you hear a voice? Clinically, you're in need of help.
 - Yet that is exactly what we are to strive for.
 - Hearing from His Word
 - Hearing from his Spirit

Challenge

I will listen for God more than talk at God.

I will act upon the words that God gives me.