

JAMES

PRACTICING FAITH

Sermon Discussion Questions

Doers of the Word // James 1:19-27

- Do you ever worry that you're living a "weak-tea" version of Christianity? How would you know?
- James 1:19-27 forces us to look at our own beliefs to see how they're working out in our lives. Is this a challenge you welcome, or fear? Both?
- Pastor Joey said James presents us a diagnostic test for our faith: "If there is no gospel *through* you, maybe there's no gospel *in* you." How does that statement strike you?
- James 1:19 gives a quick, stock evaluation of our moral life: "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." Do those phrases describe you? Why or why not?
- James 1:21 says we need to "receive with meekness the implanted word." What's the difference between initial salvation and what James says here?
- James goes on to say that humbling welcoming the message of the gospel should be followed by doing that message. Do you find yourself in the category of people who have received salvation, but not welcomed its life-transforming power? Why or why not?
- How do you actively welcome the transforming power of the gospel in your life? What role does prayer, Scripture study, life-in-community, service-of-others, and worship play?
- Pastor Joey said "the gospel is *not* the good news that Jesus paid for your sins so you can go to heaven when you die, but that the gospel *is* the good news that what's wrong with us has been set right by Israel's Messiah, Jesus — and that through faith in him Jesus sets us right with God, begins the process of setting us right within ourselves and among one another, and invites us to actively participate in the ongoing process of setting ourselves right, setting our relationships with one another right, and setting the world right, all while inviting others

into that same relationship with God.” What’s the difference between those two statements? Which do you tend to live out?

- James’s most challenging statement is 1:26, “If anyone thinks he is religious but does not bridle his tongue...” Does that statement challenge you? Why or why not?
- Pastor Joey listed three “proofs” of the gospel-transformed life: controlling your speech, caring for the helpless and hopeless, and keeping yourself unstained by the world’s value-systems and power-structures. Which do you find most victory in? In which do you struggle most? Why?
- Will you welcome the life-transforming power of the gospel message already in you? How?

