



February 18: James 1:19-27

1. Reading through the book of James, it is easy to think that he is moralistic in his understanding of what it means to be a Christian. In other words, one can have the impression that he thinks a right relationship with God is all about doing this or doing that. That, however, is a wrong impression. With all his moral instruction and ethical exhortation, James is not telling a person how to become a Christian. How do you know that's the case? To whom does James address the moral instruction that begins in 1:19?
2. If James is speaking to "beloved brothers" beginning in 1:19, and if *doing* is not what makes a person a Christian, what then *is* it that makes a person a Christian? (Hint: look back at 1:18).
3. What kind of mindset does it take to receive the word of God? How would *slowness* to hear, *quickness* to speak, and *quickness* to anger hinder the word from taking root in a person's heart?

4. What metaphor does James use to describe a person who only hears the word, but does not do it? What kinds of things characterize a person who would look in a mirror and then immediately forget what he sees (e.g. impatience, refusal to focus, etc.)?

5. In verses 26-27 James gives three examples of what it means to *do* the Word. What are they?

6. Do you see these three practices or examples elsewhere in Scripture? Find one or two passages in the Old Testament that teach these same things.