

James – Doers Who Act

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James 1:22-27

September 20, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

There is enormous pressure in our culture to take a stand and say something about an issue

The news cycle and social media drive the thought life of so many of us.

*What issues of the day do you feel pressure to state your opinion on?

*Does giving our opinion about something fool us into believing we are making a difference?

We are blessed not in studying the Word of God but in the doing of it

It is not the learning, but the living.

Read and discuss James 1:22-25(ESV)

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.

*What do these verses tell us about an active faith?

*When have you been blessed by doing the word of God?

*James doesn't say we should be doers only, just not hearers only. How do these things work in tandem?

Read and discuss James 1:26-27(ESV)

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

*What is James calling us to here? What is hard to hear or challenging in these verses?

*How can our heart be deceived by what we think is faith?

Spirituality is worthless unless you;

Control what you say – our words should not just come out of our mouths but instead serve the Kingdom

Visit those who are afflicted – not talking about them, but face to face, loving them well

Resist being stained by the world – engaging in the world without buying into its mindset

*How have you seen the church in America not be anchored in these things? How have you gotten caught up?

*How do you seek to keep control of your tongue? What has practically worked for you?

*What does it look like to visit the afflicted in your life?

*How do you wade into the mess of the world without becoming a mess?

At Pulpit Rock, we seek to be Part 2 people

We are not called by our savior to say something about issues; we are called to DO something for real people.

*How can you exercise your active faith in DOING about some of the things happening in our 2020 world?

Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church

[James Reading Plan](#)

September 20 – 26th James 4:1-17

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Love](#) by Chris Riggs

Song for reflection [More Like Jesus](#) by Passion

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.