

TITLE: James (Lesson 7)

TEXT: James 1:22-25

INTRO: "Love compliments and balances everything else. It is the beautiful, softening principle. It keeps our firmness from becoming hardness and our strength from becoming domineering. It keeps our maturity gentle and considerate. It keeps our right doctrine from becoming obstinate dogmatism and our right living from becoming smug self-righteousness."
John MacArthur

I. (vs. 22) Don't be a deceived Christian.

NOTE: James has already instructed us on the importance of the Word. (vs. 18-21)

A. "be swift to hear"

1. Put away any hindrances to receiving God's Word.

B. Beware the great deception!

NOTE: "The most dangerous interval in your spiritual life is the period of time between realizing what God wants you to do and actually doing what God wants you to do."

Robert Jeffress

1. Hearing is not enough. Obedience is paramount!

NOTE: Luke 11:27-28; Rom. 2:11-16

II. (vs. 23-24) Don't be a forgetful Christian.

A. This is someone who *listens* but doesn't *act*.

NOTE: "Many people have the mistaken idea that hearing a good sermon or Bible study is what makes them grow and get God's blessing. It is not the hearing but *the doing* that brings the blessing. Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them!"

Warren Wiersbe

B. The uniqueness of God's mirror is it shows us what's on the inside.

1. James illustration.

NOTE: 2 Cor. 3:18 "That is one of the remarkable properties of the Word of God as a mirror. It not only shows us our Savior but also puts in our heart the desire to be like Him."

John Phillips

III. (vs. 25) Be a blessed Christian.

A. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty"

NOTE: This is someone who is eagerly and carefully looking with intent to learn.

1. God's Word is perfect and offers freedom.

NOTE: John 8:31-32

B. "and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work"

1. Obedience to God's Word is his chosen lifestyle.

NOTE: Ps. 1:1-2

C. "this man shall be blessed in his deed."

1. Reaping the benefits of actively listening and obeying God.

NOTE: Ps. 1:3; I John 2:17; Matt. 7:24-27