

Hands On
James 1:19-27

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Congruity: parallel lines between what someone *says* and *does*
- 0.2 We have sayings about this tension
- 0.3 A follower of Jesus is experiencing process of lifestyle changes

1.0 The Discipline to Listen (v.19 & v.26)

- 1.1 Listening allows us to take in people and circumstances around us
- 1.2 It's hard to listen when you talk, especially if in habit of talking rapidly
- 1.3 Being "quick to hear" involves self-discipline

2.0 The Discipline to Control Anger (v.20)

- 2.1 Level temperament, like listening, enables one to negotiate surroundings
- 2.2 It is hard to be accepting when one rushes to anger (Prov.14:29)
- 2.3 The difference between 'righteous anger' and selfish arrogance
- 2.4 Anger can derail virtue (Num.20:10-12; Jas.1:5; also Col.3:8; Prov.29:22)

3.0 The Discipline to Let Go and Hold Tight (v.21)

- 3.1 "All of life consists of the fine art of holding tight & letting go" (Henry H. Ellis)
- 3.2 Embracing Christ involves divesting oneself of low/damaged standards,
and we need discernment to distinguish one from the other
- 3.3 Making space for the "implanted Word" (v.21b → I Cor.5:8)

4.0 A Hands On Lifestyle (vv.22-26)

- 4.1 Full circle: congruity between soul and life - "Be doers, not mere listeners"
- 4.2 Analogy of forgetfulness in mirror-image (v.23)
- 4.3 Liberty involves freedom *from* (v.24) and freedom *for* (v.25)
- 4.4 So why mention orphans & widows as measure of genuine religion? (v.27)

Next week (Feb.21) – With Liberty & Justice for All
James 2:1-13; Phil.2:5-11

James 1:19-27 (NASB)

¹⁹ You know *this*, my beloved brothers *and sisters*. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, *and* slow to anger; ²⁰ for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore, ridding *yourselves* of all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the *law* of freedom, and has continued *in it*, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.