

Home group week 4 July 10 Live it up! James 1:19-27

Introduction

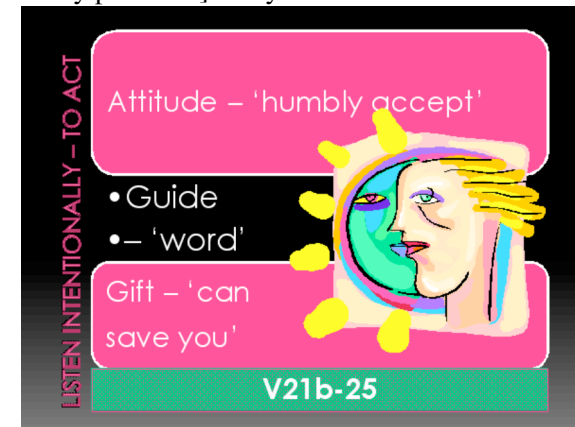
The title usually describes a life of extravagance & excess, often with little restraint. James, however, calls us to 'live up' to the rich & full life God designed us for. This requires us to 'live out' our faith. So far he has concentrated on those things that might hinder us doing so – trials & suffering & temptations to sin & so failing to reflect the glory of God. What though might this mean in practise? What follows begins to unpack that.

Read James 1:19-27

1. What do you think it means to be 'quick to listen'? How does it affect you when people a) don't listen b) do listen properly? If at all possible give examples. How do you know when people are really listening – or not!?
2. What sort of things might prevent or get in the way of listening to people/God? What would help us listen to God?
3. Why do you think James tells us to be *slow to speak* [& cp v26]? Would the same principle help us at all when we talk to God [pray]? How?
4. James says we are to be *slow to get angry*. Do you find anger difficult to control or admit to? Why do you think? What do you think is the reason that *our anger* is said *not to produce the righteousness that God desires* [v20]? – check James 4:1-3. James says 'slow to be angry' not 'never be angry'. Why do you think & do you think anger always wrong? Explain.
5. We are called to perform moral surgery on ourselves [v21] – what does this mean & what do you think are the evils that are *so prevalent* [=

In the Greek that James used there was more than one word for anger. The word used here is a kind of seething, continuing antagonism, an enduring hostility [not eg a flash of temper]. Someone has described it as 'a simmering pot of hostile, mean-spirited feelings.'

widely practised] today? What is the antidote here?



6. How does the Bible help us in living out our faith & working out all that we have discussed so far [v21-25]? What will help us get the most benefit from our scripture readings? Is it enough to know a lot about the bible?
 7. What three things does James say tests how truly devoted we are to God? Why should we see this as a challenge that calls us to action rather than a sentence that condemns us?
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