Hearing and Doing

Ken Chapman · James 1:19–25

INTRODUCTION

- It's good to hear and to read. But that doesn't do you a whole lot of good, does it? Until and unless you put it into practice.
- We do not lose heart because of how we respond to that God.
- We're really no better than the world if we simply hear the truth, know that truth, and can, when called upon, spew it back forth, but it's not really who we are.

1 Be Swift to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Wrath

James 1:18–20; Galatians 4:16

- Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- God has brought us forth by his word of truth. Therefore, you be swift to hear.
- It doesn't matter what you say. It matters what God, the Maker, the Creator, said.
- Don't get mad at the message, because getting mad at the message is rejecting the message, and that's not going to achieve righteousness.

2 Receive With Meekness the Implanted Word

James 1:21

- Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness. and receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your soul.
- Receiving is the idea of going, okay. Maybe another word we could use there is accepting it.
- That is not just the truth as spoken, but that's the truth that I need.
- The opposite of that is meekly receiving and saying, You're right. I'm wrong. I accept that I need to change.

3 Implant It So It Takes Root

- But now I implant it. Do you see that's even a step further? That this isn't just some kind of surface recognition.
- We may struggle with these next steps, the idea of implanting it to where it really becomes a part of me. It changes who I am.
- Listening to the truth, and sometimes the painful truth, is not some kind of whipping that squares our account with God. It's a prodding to get us to do better when we leave the church building.
- It's got to take root. It's got to affect who I am. And it must absolutely must start from the inside out.

4 Be Doers of the Word, Not Hearers Only

James 1:22–24

- You need to hear, receive it, have it implanted, but now you've got to put it into practice.
- But be doers of the word and not hearers only. Deceiving yourselves.
- Do we hold just a high standard for ourselves as we do for our preacher? That I'll do the truth. That I'll obey it.
- It's not enough to say I'd go to the right church if I'm not the right type of person.

5 He Who Continues in It

James 1:25

- He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it.
- It's not just a one-time thing.
- The Bible tells us that we need to be obeying the gospel every day.
- Did you obey the gospel yesterday? The day before. And today.

6 Not a Forgetful Hearer

James 1:25

- He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- You didn't mean to lie when you said, I'm going to do better. You meant it when you said it. But you forgot.
- I don't need help forgetting. I need help remembering.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **To not forget. To let not just this lesson, but every reading and study of the Word of God become a part of you. And to change you from the inside out. And to be a doer who continues in it.**

MY NOTES