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## "Doers of the Word"

*James 1:19-25*

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### **Background**

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." Easier said than done! As James continues to instruct his listeners on what it looks like to live out our faith in Jesus, we will meditate on what it means to be doers of the word, and not just hearers. Why does the "doing" matter so much? In what ways can we grow in the deeds of the word? Join us as we continue our study of the Book of James!

### **Sermon Text: James 1:9-25 (NIV)**

*<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

*<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently*

*into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **1. Preparation**

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

#### **2. Sunday Questions:**

1. Did you ever use WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) tool before? How does this trendy sentence used in the '90s become more meaningful after having walked some years with Jesus?
2. “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” How is it related to “giving space” to other people, even to those we consider our enemies?
3. “Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you... ‘Get rid of’ literally means to take off and lay aside as one would a piece of clothing.” According to Hae-Rin, what is needed for one to take off the old identity and live into the new one, with new attitudes and new behaviors?
4. James illustrates the foolishness of listening to the word, but not doing it by using the image of “looking at one’s face in a mirror and, after looking, goes away forgetting what he looks like.” Hae-Rin says that only when we look intently at Jesus and do as he did, when we ask the Spirit to remind us of what he said, and then do it, then we are truly wise and truly blessed. How should we encourage each other in doing the counter-cultural thing of following James 1:19-20?
5. Being a people who are slow to speak, quick to listen and quick to act righteously is massively counter-cultural. It might even be seen as foolish, ineffective, and weak. However, the world is crying out for people of righteousness, of justice, of compassion, of long-suffering patience, and self-denying love for neighbor. Who are some of the people in our walks of life that we can impact by doing as Jesus did and truly using WWJD as our tool?