

Sunday, September 2-, 2020

Text: James 1:19-21

Title: Welcoming the Word

*Proposition:* In James 1:19-21, James reveals three responses to God's Word that are required from Christians who want to obey God today and continue in the faith tomorrow.

1. Listen Eagerly (vv.19-20).
2. Discard Wickedness (v.21a).
3. Humbly Accept God's Word (v.21b).

*Study Guide Questions:*

- Summarize four or five areas of instruction in James 1:1-18.
- In James 1:19-20, is James' primary focus the way we listen to one another or listen to God? Why do you think so?
- What connection is there between listening to others and listening to His God in His Word?
- How has God grown you in listening to others? How do you need to grow?
- Have you been ignoring, rejecting or refusing to listen to someone who is trying to speak God's Word into your life?
- What instruction does James 1:19-20 give to those who would live righteously?
- Where in your life have you become complacent about living righteously? Is there any filthiness and wickedness you need to discard (v21)? (A good place to start to examine would be to read through James. Colossians 3 and Ephesians 4:17-6:9 are other good passages to look at.)
- Why will a failure to discard wickedness affect our reception of God's Word (v.21)?
- If God's Word has already been implanted in our hearts, why do we still need to receive it? What does receiving it look like?
- We may be tempted to think we are receiving God's Word when we read it or listen to a sermon. How is receiving God's Word more than passively listening?
- What does it mean that God's Word is "able to save our souls" for someone who has already placed their faith in Christ? How does God use His Word to *keep* us saved?

- If you've known people who have fallen away from Christ, did they stop receiving God's Word, not put away filthiness or both of the above? How are you warned by their fall?
- What steps have you followed in your meditating life to cultivate good listening and receiving of God's Word?