



Leader

8/30 - James 1:19-27

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

2. Let's read our primary text. Are you familiar with this text? For those who are familiar with it, how has it shaped your life?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

3. Why does James connect "slow to anger" specifically to the ability to hear and receive truth (vv. 19–21)?

Anger clouds judgment and tends to produce defensiveness rather than genuine listening. James makes this explicit in verse 20: "the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Human anger, even when it feels righteous, rarely leads to godly outcomes. It talks over, argues with, or rejects truth rather than humbly receiving it. Slowness to anger clears the way for the word to actually take root.

4. In Scripture, especially in Paul's writings, the phrase "put away" is emphasized often. Where else have you seen this in the Bible and what does it mean to "put something away"?

"Put away, put off, and lay aside" occur many times in the Bible (Eph., Col., Phil., etc). Most frequently the authors are referring to a believer maturing, laying aside sin or childish ways and participating in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in their life. Paul often describes it as putting sin to death, a vivid depiction of the process of mortification within us to purge sin.

5. Explain the mirror illustration in verses 23–24. What point is James making about hearers who don't act?

A man glances in a mirror and sees exactly what he looks like...perhaps flaws, dishevelment, whatever needs fixing, and then walks away and immediately forgets. The mirror (the word) accurately reveals the truth, but if the viewer doesn't respond to what he sees, the revelation is wasted. James is illustrating how easily people hear convicting truth, feel a moment of recognition, and then let it slip away without any real change.

6. What is the "perfect law, the law of liberty" (v. 25), and why is it liberating rather than restrictive?

This refers to the law of God fulfilled in Christ and applied through the gospel, often understood as the moral law now written on the heart and empowered by the Spirit rather than external rule

keeping. James calls it a law of “liberty” because obedience to God's word, far from being burdensome, frees people from sin's bondage and self-deception. The one who looks intently into it, perseveres, and acts on it, rather than glancing and forgetting, is the one James says will be “blessed in his doing.”

7. Why does James single out the tongue as a test of genuine religion (v. 26)?

Speech is one of the most immediate, hard-to-fake indicators of what's really in the heart (a theme James expands later in chapter 3). Someone who considers himself devout but speaks carelessly, cruelly, or deceitfully reveals that his religious practice is only surface-level. James calls such unbridled speech evidence of self-deception, “religion that is worthless.”

8. James defines “pure and undefiled” religion with two specific actions: caring for orphans and widows, and keeping oneself unstained from the world (v. 27). Why pair a call to compassion with a call to personal holiness?

Together they show that authentic faith moves both outward and inward. Visiting orphans and widows, the most vulnerable and often overlooked people in that society, embodies active, sacrificial love and justice. Keeping oneself unstained from the world guards personal integrity so that compassion isn't undercut by compromised character. Neither alone is sufficient: social action without holiness can become hollow, and personal piety without compassion can become self-focused. Pure religion holds both together.

9. Where do you see yourself on the spectrum of hearing and doing? What are the consequences for neglecting one or both of these?

[\[Open discussion\]](#)

10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal:* Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External:* Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources