

Change
James 1:19-27

1. **The need of change (19-21a) – Why do we need to change?**

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ **Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness.**” James 1:19-21a

2. **The seed of change (21b-25) – How do we change?**

“**receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

James 1:21b-25

“And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.” Mark 4:18-19

3. **The deed of change (26-27) – What does change look like?**

“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.” James 1:26

Real change looks like two things:

- It shines – “to visit orphans and widows in their affliction”
- It shuns - “to keep oneself unstained from the world”

“For the LORD God is a **sun** and **shield**;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.”

Psalms 84:11a

Questions to Discuss

- In what ways can our hearts/lives begin to look like a hoarder's house? (See verses 20-21 – anger and filthiness)

- Why do we need to be “quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” if we are going to be open to change?

- In what ways do we deceive ourselves?

Give an example of something you thought was true when you were younger, but now you know it is not true.

- Why do you think James talks about kindness (to the vulnerable) and purity (from the world) in verse 27 when he was illustrating what real change looks like?