



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
James 1:19-27 | September 21, 2025  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week James draws a sharp contrast between *acting* religious and living out **pure religion**. True faith does more than listen to God's Word—it receives the "implanted word" (v.21) and puts it into action. Pure religion expresses itself in obedience, bridling the tongue, and caring for the vulnerable. Worship that does not transform how we speak, act, and serve is, as the prophets warned, worthless (cf. Zechariah 7:6-10; Micah 6:6-8).

As we study, consider how God is calling you beyond hearing to doing—so that your worship and daily life align with His heart.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Share about a time when someone's quiet, consistent actions spoke louder than their words. What impact did it have on you?

When have you been inspired by a person or group whose faith showed up in practical care for others?

## III. Study the Text

*Read James 1:19-21*

*"Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger..."*

- Why do you think James starts with listening and controlling anger as essential for receiving God's Word?
- What does it mean for the Word to be "implanted" in us (see Matthew 13:1-8)?
- What hinders you from receiving the Word with meekness?



Read James 1:22-25

*"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

- How does James illustrate the danger of hearing without doing?
- What is the "law of liberty," and how does it set us free for obedience?
- Where might we be deceiving ourselves by only listening?

Read James 1:26-27

*"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God... is to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."*

- How does the tongue reveal the reality of our religion?
- In the Old Testament, Israel's worship was sometimes called "worthless" when justice and mercy were missing (e.g., Micah 6:6-8; Zechariah 7:6-10). How does James echo those prophets?
- What specific, tangible actions today express "pure religion"?

#### IV. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Thank God for giving His Word as a living seed that transforms hearts.
- Confess places where you have been content to hear without doing.
- Pray for humility to receive the Word and courage to act.
- Ask the Spirit to guide our church to care for those who are most vulnerable.

#### V. Digging Deeper

*For additional reflection:*

- **Deuteronomy 10:17-19** – God's heart for the orphan, widow, and stranger.
- **Micah 6:6-8** – What does the Lord require of us?
- **John 13:12-17** – Jesus models servant action after teaching.
- **1 John 3:16-18** – Loving "in deed and in truth."

