James 1:19-27

REVIEW - How to have wisdom ...

- JOY because of TRIALS...
 - o When we FALL into various TRIALS TEMPTATIONS...
 - o KNOWING that the testing of our faith produces patience!
- WISDOM for TRIALS...
 - o There are TWO very different kinds of WISDOM from ABOVE and from BELOW...
 - o We MUST ask the Lord for WISDOM from ABOVE and He WILL give it freely to us...
 - o But we NEED to ask in faith [trust] doubting NOTHING...
 - o Those who doubt are double minded will not get ANTYTHING from the Lord!
- REWARD from TRIALS...
 - o OH HOW HAPPY is the man who endures TEMPTATIONS...
 - When we go through trials / temptations [same word] we WILL learn to endure [abide]...
 - When we endure we WILL receive a crown of life speaking of our salvation!
 - o Temptations DO NOT come from God...
 - God cannot be tempted by evil and he does not temp anyone with evil…
 - We are tempted by our own desires and we are deceived...
 - DO NOT be deceived my beloved brethren IMPERATIVE!
 - Every good perfect God comes down from the Father of Lights!
 - Who brought us forth by the Word of Truth that we might bear fruit!

Answer in TRIALS... [3 points]

- 1st Listen to the Word... vs. 19-21
 - o 1st Slow to SPEAK... vs. 19
 - Since we LACK wisdom from ABOVE...
 - And we are in constant danger of falling into TEMPTATION...
 - So then my beloved brethren...
 - Let [imperative] every man be swift to hear slow to speak slow to wrath!
 - We used to say sticks and stones…
 - It turns out names are far more devastating than stones...
 - If you get hit by a stone the wound will heal rather quickly not so much with words...
 - There are things people said to me when I was a child that I STILL remember!
 - They leave scars that NEVER go away words are POWERFUL!
 - Words are WEAPONS...
 - When we are not happy we can use cutting words designed to cause maximum damage...
 - You have heard the old saying if you have nothing good to say say nothing...
 - Because we will have to answer one day for every idle word Matthew 12:36
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:7** "There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak..."
 - It has been well said that God wisely designed us with TWO ears and ONE mouth...
 - Because we should be listening at least TWICE as much as we are talking!
 - The problem is that often open our MOUTHS when we should be opening our EARS!
 - Do not throw out words carelessly it ends up costing us dearly...
 - Better to think first about what we are going to say the consequence of our words...
 - It is easy to say something it is almost impossible to take our words back!
 - **Ephesians 4:29** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth..."

- o 2nd Slow to WRATH... vs. 20
 - The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God...
 - James gives us a hint on what happens if we ARE NOT slow to speak...
 - There will be WRATH because words do SO MUCH damage...
 - And those wounds that we inflict on others when our words PROVOKE anger...
 - Those DO NOT lead to the righteousness of God just the opposite...
 - They take us down a path of BITTERNESS which SEPARATES us from God!
 - Wrath leads to bitterness...
 - Jesus said if we are ANGRY with someone is equivalent to murder Matthew 5:21-22
 - Therefore if we are ANGRY with someone deal with it before the sunsets...
 - Talk to the person we are upset with before our ANGRY turns to BITTERNESS...
 - BITTERNESS which becomes HATRED HATRED that will begin to control our life!
 - I have unfortunately too often let the SUN GO DOWN on an argument...
 - Now while I can sleep like a baby when that happens my wife has suffered...
 - Time DOES NOT make it easier to deal with hurts in contrast it lets them fester!
 - If we try and ignore a problem we give an opportunity to satan...
 - Satan would love to cause division in our families in church bitterness and hate...
 - Do not let satan rob us of the forgiveness and joy Jesus has provided...
 - If we are upset with someone because of something they said talk about it today!
 - II Corinthians 2:11 "lest Satan should take advantage of us..."
- o 3rd Receive the Word... vs. 21
 - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness...
 - Do not miss INEVITABLE result of WRATH...
 - All filthiness [only here NT] to make DIRTY...
 - Overflowing wickedness super abundant evil!
 - [Instead] Receive with meekness the implanted word...
 - Notice that we are given a solution to filthiness / wickedness...
 - SET ASIDE these things by RECEIVING [imperative]...
 - What MUST we RECEIVE the engrafted [written on our hearts] Word!
 - **Hebrews 12:1** "Lay aside [same word] every weight the sin which so easily ensnares us let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking to Jesus..."
 - Which is able to save your souls...
 - SOUL [ψυχή] speaking of our MIND / EMOTIONS...
 - ullet ABLE [δύναμαι] we can almost speak into English dynamite / power...
 - The implication is the Word has the POWER to change our MIND / HEART!
 - Change our heart to allow us to let go of ANGER/ BITTERNESS and FORGIVE!
 - The COMMAND to forgive...
 - How often do we have to forgive others 70x7 **Matthew 18:22**
 - With a little quick math we can figure out that is 490 times...
 - But Jesus was not giving us a number He was giving us a Bible reference...
 - 70x7 is a very special number only used once in the Bible!
 - **Daniel 9:24** "A period of seventy sets of seven [70x7] has been decreed... to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness...."
 - How often are we to forgive someone when they hurt us EVERY time!
 - What if they keep committing the same sin then we keep forgiving...
 - Is there ever any reason when we do not to forgive not even one!
 - The REASON we forgive...

- With WRATH in our hearts God does not hear our prayers Mark 11:25
- AND if we are not willing to FORGIVE God will not forgive us Matthew 6:15
- When we are hurt by others and REFUSE to FORGIVE it plants a seed in our heart...
- It can quickly grow into BITTERNESS we become consumed by the hurt they caused...
- Its roots can grow down deep poisoning and hardening SEPARATING us from God...
- The FRUIT in our life makes us BITTER and eventually brings spiritual DEATH!
- The only solution RECEIVE the WORD…
 - Jesus can CHANGE our hearts and allow us to let go of filthiness and wickedness...
 - Forgiveness is not just for the one who did us wrong it is also for us...
 - He sets us free we do not dwell on the past we get to move forward in Jesus!
 - **John 8:36** "If the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed."
- 2ND OBEY THE WORD... VS. 22-25
 - o 1st Doers of the Word... vs. 22
 - Be [imperative] doers of the word and not hearers only...
 - DOER [ποιητής] used THREE times in the next THREE verses IMPORTANT!
 - It is not enough to just LISTEN to what the Bible says we need to OBEY!
 - We can read our Bibles we might even agree with everything it says...
 - But if we do not OBEY the commands then what benefit did it have!
 - I took a boat ride in India SIX hundred people in a boat built for TWO hundred!
 - Before it left they gave safety instructions what to do if the boat sank I paid attention!
 - The gist of the instructions was to get out of the boat and swim for it...
 - But all that information meant nothing because most of the people could not swim!
 - The Bible is not a textbook we must learn it is an instruction manual to follow...
 - We can know all words but if it does not change our actions it means nothing!
 - Deceiving yourselves...
 - DECEIVING [παραλογίζομα] we can speak the word into English LOGIC…
 - Too many people try to use JUSTIFY the BITTERNESS in their lives with LOGIC...
 - I am the way I am because of what has happened to me what people did to me...
 - As a RESULT they are DECEIVED they miss the POWER of Jesus to set them free!
 - I know a lot of people who know about Jesus but do not DO what He says...
 - Unfortunately for them it does them no good knowledge does not save us...
 - We cannot stand before God one day and say I knew what Jesus wanted me to do!
 - How to OBEY...
 - **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His workmanship..."
 - WORKMANSHIP $[\pi o i \eta \mu \alpha]$ same exact word translated as DOER...
 - It is not that we must DO what the Bible says that would come from us...
 - We come to Jesus who changes us HEARTS and He makes us a DOER of the Word!
 - o 2^{nd} The mirror... vs. 23-24
 - If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer...
 - He is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror...
 - There are two ways that we can approach the Bible...
 - It can either be an INSTRUCTION manual or it can be a MIRROR...
 - The person who does not OBEY the INSTRUCTIONS treats the Bible like a MIRROR!
 - When I get up on the morning I DO NOT like mirrors...
 - They are TOO honest they tell me EXACTLY what I look like...
 - But I find the solution to the mirror is to walk away then I can forget what I saw!
 - That is exactly what happens to the man who does not OBEY...
 - For he observes himself goes away and immediately forgets what kind of man he was...

- When he LOOKS at the Word he sees his NATURAL face...
- NATURAL [γένεσις] original we might say REAL…
- But the moment he puts the Bible down he always CHOSES [active] to walk away!
- FORGET come from the root word $[\lambda\alpha\nu\theta\dot{\alpha}\nu\omega]$ to HIDE an intentional act!
- That way he gets to go on with living his life HIS way!
- He goes back to the same broken life he had before he read the Bible!
- He is the same kind of man he was [imperfect] before he heard the Word NO CHANGE!
- When we first come to Jesus we are not going to understand much of the Bible...
- There is a LOT about the Word of God we will not comprehend...
- But we should not stay that way as we get into the Word we should CHANGE...
- When a believer whose been saved for TWENTY years is still living for this world...
- It is a tragedy they never became DOERS of the WORD they never matured in their faith!
- o 3rd The law of liberty... vs. 25
 - He who looks into the perfect law of liberty...
 - The person who LOOKS into the perfect Law of Liberty...
 - The word LOOK here is NOT the same word as OBSERVE in verse 24...
 - The word LOOK here means to do more than glance it means to bow down an inspect!
 - It carries the idea of being VERY interested in the topic we are examining...
 - Recognizing its importance and giving it the proper RESPECT it deserves!
 - Continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work...
 - This one will be blessed in what he does!
 - CONTINUES [παραμένω] to ABIDE in the Word…
 - So often people do NOT want to OBEY the Bible because they want to be FREE...
 - They do not want to be told what to do they want to have the CHOICE...
 - But true FREEDOM is not being left to our own devises that is BONDAGE!
 - FREEDOM comes from the PERFECT [complete] Law of LIBERTY...
 - The word LIBERTY comes from the root word to be FREE BORN...
 - In Rome there were only TWO kinds of people SLAVES and CITIZENS...
 - Do not miss the point those who ignore the Bible are SLAVES to sin Romans 6:16
 - But those who continue ABIDE in the PERFECT law of LIBERTY...
 - Not forgetting what they HEAR but are DOERS they BLESSED...
 - Because they become CITIZENS of the kingdom FREE from sin!
 - A good example to illustrate this sheep and goats…
 - If you set a sheep right next to a goat you might not know which is which...
 - Do not look very different they do not sound very different eat the same things...
 - They live side by side experiencing much the same life...
 - But the final destination of the goats is very different from the sheep!
 - The one who can always tell them apart is their shepherd!
 - **John 10:27** "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow [OBEY] Me."
 - Both sheep and goats hear Jesus voice but only the sheep OBEY!
 - Hearing does not make us a Christian obeying Jesus makes us a sheep!
- 3RD Fulfill the Word... vs. 26-27
 - o 1st Useless religion... vs. 26
 - If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue...
 - But deceives his own heart this one's religion is useless!
 - WHAT does being a HEARER and DOER of the Word looks like...
 - If anyone THINKS they are RELIGIOUS by context meaning a HEARER and DOER...
 - But they do not BRIDLE literally put a BIT in their MOUTH to control their TONGUE...

- Then they are DECEIVING their own hearts their RELIGION is USELESS!
- What comes out of our mouth is in really a reflection of what in our heart...
- We will talk a LOT more about this when we come to James 3
- Luke 6:45 "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
- o 2nd Pure religion... vs. 27
 - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this...
 - Pure [true] RELIGION undefiled before God the Father is defined by three ACTIONS...
 - The suggestion is that RELIGION that is in WORD ONLY is defiled and impure...
 - Because it lacks the corresponding ACTIONS that show a CHANGED heart!
 - To visit orphans and widows in their trouble...
 - VISIT [σκοπός] literally to ALWAYS [present] keep a watchful EYE on the orphans...
 - When there are children who have NO ONE to take care of them VISIT!
 - And VISIT the widows in their affliction $[\theta \lambda \tilde{\imath} \psi \iota \varsigma]$ tribulation...
 - They have lost their husband and often have NO ONE to care for them!
 - The common thread between these two ACTIONS LOVE for others...
 - The number one MARK of someone who is a DOER of the Word LOVE!
 - John 13:35 "All will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - To keep oneself unspotted from the world...
 - UNSPOTTED to have the STAIN of the world...
 - We are ALWAYS [present] to keep ourselves clean from the FILTH of the world!
 - I can tell you I am a Christian but what kind of FRUIT comes from my life...
 - It is easy to say we have RELIGION but the proof is in our actions LOVE...
 - If we say we are Christians but still live like the world where is the CHANGED heart...
 - We are NOT to fool ourselves if we are not OBEYING it is not PURE RELIGION!