

“The Man in the Mirror”

James 1:19-27

“Living Out What Lies Within” – A Message Series in James

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Issues. Problems. Challenges. Dilemmas. We can all relate to dealing with them. And it hurts for us to see a family member or friend stuck in the rut of an unhealthy marriage or an anger issue or making bad financial decisions or being a bad parent or a toxic working environment or _____ (Matt 7:24-29).

It's possible that one who is stuck in some sort of rut in life may have _____.

- Spectrophobia is a specific phobia involving a morbid fear of mirrors!

The B.I.B.L.E. is a mirror. When we look into it we can see ourselves as we really are!

Our main passage provides some really interesting insight. James 1:19-21:

PRACTICE THE _____:

- V 19...
 - “Quick to listen” (1 Sam 3)... In other words, *practice the pause*.
 - “Slow to anger”... If we're not calm then we can't hear God's voice (1 Kings 19).

GET THE _____ OUT:

- V 21a... The word “filth” is likened to ear wax. Get rid of it in order to “accept”, or to welcome God's Word.

DON'T LET _____ GET IN THE WAY:

- V 21b... “Humbly accept” the Word in order to see yourself clearly in the mirror of God's Word (Jas 4:6).

“Okay, I'll be bold and look into the mirror! But how?” Check out verses 22-25:

- V 25... “Looks intently”... The Gr. *parakupto* (“pear-ah-COOP-toe”): to become intimately acquainted with.
- VV 23-24... Imagine looking at a mirror and seeing your face looking like a Picasso painting and then just saying, “oh well” as you shrug your shoulders and walk away (2 Tim 3:16-17) !
- V 22...
 - Actually, the word “deceived” here alludes that you wouldn't be so flippant about it.
 - What do you need to adjust as you look into God's mirror this morning? _____

I love the promise we see here in verse 25c... A BLESSED LIFE!

Finally, in verses 26-27: There must be no disparity between what Christians believe and how they _____.

- Your “religion” must change your behavior or it's useless. 1. Guard your tongue, 2. Give to others, 3. Guard your life.