

SMALL GROUP

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

To Do Or Not To Do

James 1:21-25

April 26, 2020

Sermon Summary

In the face of persecution and cultural pressure, the question James' readers were facing was, do we do the Word of God implanted or do we not do the Word of God? Well, James' emphatic answer was "*Be doers of the Word.*" Not only did he command them to do the Word, but he explained the importance of doing the Word by contrasting two kind of people: those who ignore the Word of God and those who obey the Word.

Diving Into The Message

1. When a person disobeys God's Word, that person may know full well the he or she is disobeying. Even still, that person is self-deceived. In what ways does that person deceive himself or herself?
2. Of the two forms of self-deception that Michael mentioned, which do you think is most applicable to you and why?
3. Michael mentioned that disobeying God's Word may be the most dangerous form of self-deception. James will unpack this truth in chapter 2, but look at John 14:15 and 1 John 5:3 and discuss why this is true. So, what does your response to God's Word say about you?
4. James mentions that the person who "*looks intently at*" God's Word and obeys will be blessed? What is the significance of the phrase "*looks intently?*" What kind of plan do you have in place to look intently at God's Word?
5. How does our cultural form of Christianity today portray the blessings of God and how does that contrast with what the Bible teaches? Take a look at the use of the word "*blessed*" Psalm 1:1-6 and Matthew 5:1-12. What are ways God fulfills His promise to bless those who obey His Word?
6. What is one take-away from today's message and how will you apply it to your life?

Prayer Action

1. Pray for the peace of God in these stressful times and ask the Lord to give you the patience that only the Holy Spirit can produce.
2. Pray Christians would respond to one another, our political leaders, and the media as Jesus would.
3. Pray God stop the spread of COVID-19 and receive the glory for doing so.