

C. James brings this altogether with a very clear application (26).

## Conclusion

Lewis Smedes: *“First we deceive ourselves, and then we convince ourselves that we are not deceiving ourselves.”*

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Do you ever find yourself quick to bring God's word to bear on what it calls others to do, but not on what it calls you to do?
- Why is it important to remember that being slow to speak and slow to anger does not mean to “never judge”? How does being slow to speak and slow to wrath bring mercy to judgment?
- Explain: *To show mercy involves demonstrating patience where we know sin exists.*
- Why do you think an environment of being slow to speak judgment and slow to anger the necessary context for James 5:16 to function?
- What does it mean to be quick to listen to God's Word? What posture should we take before God's word?
- Have you ever used God's word as a tool for judging other in an improper way? (e.g. being quick to speak/anger)
- What does it mean to live by the liberating law of the Gospel in which mercy triumphs over judgment? Give examples.
- Do you battle with bitterness or rage toward those not as gifted or obedient as you perceive yourself to be?
- What is the key, the secret, to remaining earnest about God's word without becoming quick to speak and act in judgment?

## Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 5)

### *The Insidious Danger of Self-Deception*

Jerry Cisar — June 5, 2016

Text: James 1:19-26

## Introduction

### I. Quick to Hear God's Word; Slow to Judge Others by It (1:19-20)

#### A. Quick to listen to what?

#### B. What does it mean to be slow to anger/wrath?

- i. *Anger or wrath* involves judgment. God's wrath is righteous because He judges righteously.
  - a) Psalm 7:6
  - b) Psalm 7:11
- ii. God is *slow to wrath*.
  - a) Exodus 32:10-11
  - b) Numbers 16:22
  - c) Deuteronomy 9:19
- iii. *Anger* and being *slow to anger* are about justice and mercy.

#### C. What does it mean to be slow to speak?

D. James 2:12-13 Someone who speaks and acts with the awareness that he will be judged by the law that gives freedom, the merciful law of the Gospel, is someone who is slow to speak judgment against his brother and slow to act in anger.

E. *Anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires*

## II. Take the Word to Heart (1:21)

A. Lay aside your filthy clothes.

B. *Humbly accept the word planted in you.*

- i. When is this “word planted in you”?
  - a) James 1:18
  - b) 1 Peter 1:23
- ii. You have a new nature.

C. *Humbly accept...*

- i. Deuteronomy 33:3-4
- ii. Deuteronomy 30:1-2
- iii. Proverbs 1:1, 3
- iv. Proverbs 2:1-5
- v. Mark 4:20

D. “can save you” or “able to save your souls”

Motyer says this phrase “*underlines the power of the implanted word actually to make salvation a positive reality in daily experience.*”

- i. The opposite of the *death and hostility* that infiltrates the life of sin (v15).
- ii. The *life and peace*, described in relationships in 3:13-18.
- iii. In the end, a crown of life! (v12)

## III. Put the Word into Action (1:22-26)

A. What is it like to not put the Word into action? (23-24)

- i. A person who looks at his or her face in a mirror...
- ii. After he looks, he walks away and forgets what he looks like.

B. What is humbly receiving the Word like? (25)

- i. This person also looks intently and continues in it. (Psalm 1:2) Then he lives accordingly.
- ii. What is “the perfect law that gives freedom”?
  - a) The Perfect Law
  - b) ... that *gives freedom*, or the law of liberty?
    - James 2:12-13
- iii. This person is blessed because he does what it says!
  - a) Matthew 7:24-25
  - b) For this man, who received the Word and put it into practice, it was able to save him when the storm came.