

Small Group Discussion:

In your own words, define spiritual obesity

Give an example of what is not authentic Christianity.

With over 800 churches in the city of Charlotte, NC why do we have a homeless problem?

James 1

New International Version (NIV)

Listening and Doing

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Mathew 7:24 to 27:

New International Version (NIV)

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Luke 12: 47-48

New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁷ “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Show Video

Min 6 to Min 32

Overview of the Book of James:

Audience: Letter to Jewish believers scattered in region. Consists of active practical expression of faith.

Author: James and half brother of Jesus, a younger son of Mary and of Joseph.

One of the twelve disciples (Acts 1:13).

The first of the 12 to be martyred (Acts 12:2) – executed in A.D. 44 as part of a larger persecution in which Peter was arrested.

Along with Peter and John, formed Jesus innermost circle. Was present during the following:

- Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:37)
- The transfiguration (Matt: 17:1, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28)
- Summoned by Christ to support him in Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-37, Mark 14:32-34)

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Most of us are educated far beyond our level of obedience

Most of us: Our revelation is greater than our application.

We are super saturated – our problem is not our access to the word of God. Our problem is the application of God’s word.

Recall the story of hidden bible verses in car parts and then distributed in the souls of shoes.

In 2005, US purchased ½ million bibles per week

Spiritual obesity is an epidemic in our culture.

Cultural Christianity = Our education exceeds our obedience. Where we have a knowledge surplus and obedience deficit.

The word of God is like a mirror

Recall the optical illusion images.

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick:

See Math: 7: 24 to 29:

One man did and one man did not – both heard the same word

We have the same responsibility do something with what we hear.

Good rule of thumb: Apply one thing that you hear from every single Christian message.

You should be a little a little nervous and anxious with a sense of expectancy.

See Luke 12: 47-48

Spiritual inoculation (getting just enough to prevent a disease) is not the answer.

We are made by right by the blood of Jesus. Do not just gorge yourself – apply what you have heard.

The word of God is an expression of his character.

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Some think that the word of God is an optical illusion vs. a mirror.

We sometimes think the Bible is filled with inner meaning.

God’s word was never meant to be an illusion. The word of God is simple but not simplistic. It’s mysterious but not mystical.

The analogy of the mirror: Purpose is to accurately reflect what is there.

Deep = focused. What do I do with the information that I just received? This is a station of Christian maturity.

Mark Twain classic: “Its not the parts of the bible that I do not understand that bother me – It’s the parts of the bible that I do understand that scare me.

The primary purpose of the bible is to reveal who you are and how God really is.

It is not a fun house mirror. The goal is to see yourself as you really are.

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Application is the end game. Dissemination and distribution of the information is only the beginning.

Looking at the mirror does not make you any prettier.

The application of the Bible through the Holy spirit changes our lives.

Information received -----> Application -----> Transformation

Simply hearing Gods words does not help you any more than looking into a mirror makes you looks more attractive.

It does not work it unless you work it. Do not deceive yourself. It is not how much you know, it is what you do that counts.

Confusion can be cover for a lack of activity. The sport of mudding: If you get too dip, you can get stuck.

A pastor Steven classic: What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly.

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick:

We are deep not for the word that we know, but the word that we do.

When God sees you, he sees someone with potential that should be grateful for all that we are given.

When God sees you he sees your capacity to love.

When God sees you, he sees your innate ability to overcome.

When God see you, your work becomes a reflection of him.

“We should never be a Church that merely takes in calories.”