

Listening as Self-Discipline

James 1:19-27

Bible Study Questions for

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

1. Suppose you were an early Christian somewhere in the far reaches of the Roman Empire and this letter comes to your church. Your church leader reads it aloud at your Sunday gathering. What would you find helpful?

What would you find challenging?

What would you want to know more about?

2. What's hard about listening?
3. According to this text, what is the difference between hearing and listening?
4. Analyze verses 19-21. What are we to do and not to do? Why?
5. The section beginning with verse 22 instructs us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves." Why might listening to God's Word become a form of self-deception (use vv.22-25)?

6. Focus on verse 25. Mentally walk yourself through your most recent participation in a worship service. (Feel free to reread your church bulletin, if available.) What could you do that would continue the worship you began there?

7. What are some practical steps you could take to continue the work begun in that particular worship service?

8. What might be difficult about practicing the kind of religion described in verses 26-27?

9. What listening practices would help a Christian hoping to do the work of verse 26-27?

10. Identify and share one area or relationship where you would like to better practice the self-discipline of listening described in this text.