



THE BOOK OF JAMES | “LISTENING”

May 3, 2026

James 1:19–27 (NIV)

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

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.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Notes:

Purpose: To remind us that faith in Jesus is necessarily transformational

Authentic listening necessarily results in action.

Hindrances to listening (19-21)

“...humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” **James 1:21b**

Hazard of not listening (22-25)

“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.” **James 1:25**

Hallmarks of authentic listening (26-27)

³ Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

⁴ Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil
so that I take part in wicked deeds
along with those who are evildoers;
do not let me eat their delicacies.

Psalms 141:3-4

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” **2 Corinthians 5:21**