

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 1:22-25
Lesson #6
Healthy Introspection
04/04/2021

**“People’s expectations are too high
and their commitments are too low.”**

If this is the answer,
what is the question?

Why do many
marriages fail?

Why do many
people not
change?



Why do people
leave the church,
and sometimes
the faith?

1

James

**Developing a Witness
in a Broken World**

**Expectations
Commitments**

2

James 1

“22 But prove yourselves **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers who **delude** themselves.

**The Word transforms our lives
but only when applied.**

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who **looks at his natural face in a mirror**; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the **law of liberty**, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

**Application of the Word starts with
what it says about who we are in Christ.**

3



“What is your
spiritual
self-image?”

4

The symbols of the faith



**Our identity,
our message,
and our
calling**

5

James 1:22

"But prove yourselves **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."

"Doing" (application) of the word starts with:

- **personal assessment** that results in: Fail to audit oneself?
- **internal attitude** that shapes: Use knowledge to judge others?
- **external actions** in response to circumstances: Superficial actions?



6

The Word of the Cross challenges us to see ourselves "in Christ".

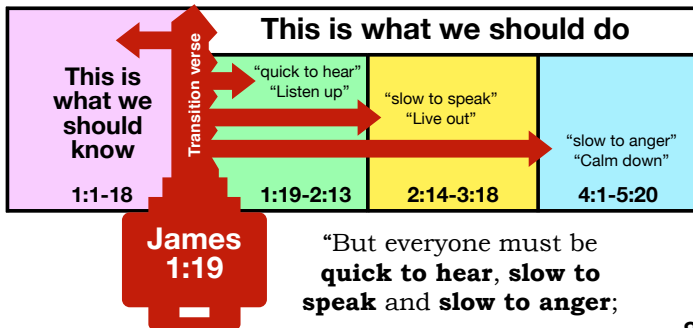
2 Corinthians 5

"16 Therefore from now on **we recognize no man according to the flesh**; . . . 17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

7

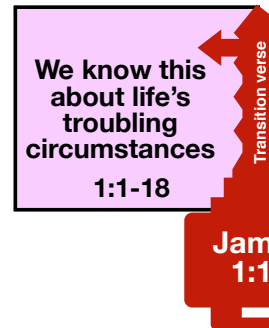
James Developing a Witness in a Broken World

"This you know, my beloved brethren."



8

James Developing a Witness in a Broken World



Bad Circumstances

- They are to be expected.
- They should inspire joy.
- They can lead to anxiety and anger.
- They can distort our image of ourselves, others, God, and the Gospel.

9

James 1:22

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who **delude themselves**."

Common Delusions with respect to the Word and Way of the Cross

- Christian Hope = **this world's blessings**
- Circumstances = **sign or God's favor**
- Spirituality = **a feeling of God's peace**
- Grace = **the fine print is "good works"**
- Bible = **a confusing encyclopedia of "proof texts" that don't agree.**

10

Example: "Is saving faith inseparable from keeping the Law?"

What is the Gospel?

- supercharged Phariseeism
- law of liberty or enablement
- freed from the Law or bound to meet its demands
- how good and for how long
- Corinth's "saints" (1:2) that act like "mere men" (3:3).



11

“Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It’s the fear that we’re not good enough

Brene Brown



12

shame

is God’s tool before the Cross

and
Satan’s
tool after.



13

Satan inspires “holiness” but only

if it is
entitled,
prideful,
superficial,
judgmental,
and & if it blinds us
to ourselves and God.



13

Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

He just wants to control the
object & subject
of our faith, hope & love.



15

**The Word of
the Cross**

*is the declaration of
man’s reconciliation
with God by faith
apart from works.*



*Not all who embrace the Word of the Cross
exemplify the Way of the Cross.*

16

**The Way of
the Cross**

*is the calling to live
sacrificially in being
a blessing more
than seeking one.*



The word “Gospel” means

not “double down”
on the Law



“good news”

but freedom
from the Law’s
condemnation



17

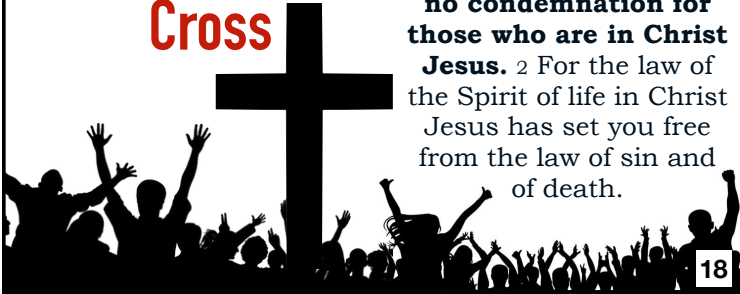
Romans 7:4

"Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to **die to the Law through the body of Christ**, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

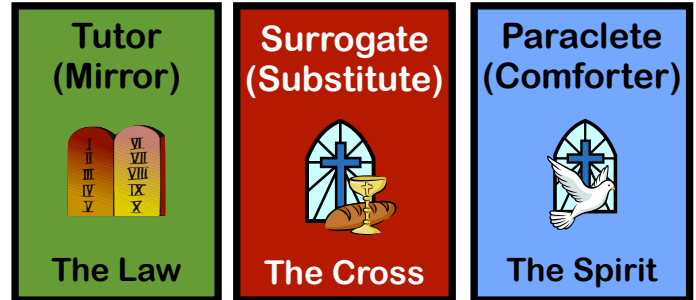
The Word of the Cross

Romans 8

"1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.



Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

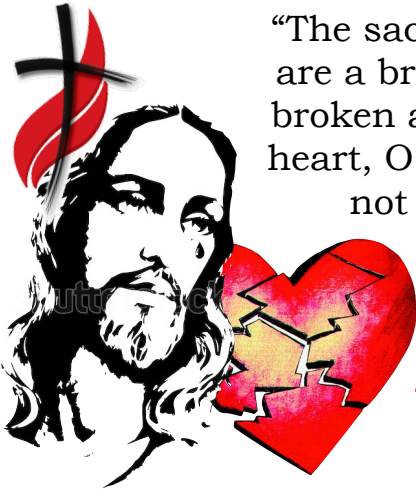


The tendency is to try to live under the Law in the power of the Spirit.

19

Psalms 51:17

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."



The Gospel is the story of three broken hearts.

20

Of all the things we can offer God it is our broken heart that He longs to see because it is the only door big enough for His Spirit to enter.

Nothing in our hands we bring, and not from pride of battles won, nor a fear of falling back, nor past regrets from misplaced dreams, but only in God's gift of grace though faith in His Redeemer Son will we find our hope and peace, our heart's desire and delight.

21

Philippians 3:10

"8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith**, 10 that I may know Him, and **the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

22

Lessons from Eve

"she took from its fruit and ate"
Gen.3:6

1.
sin

I made mistakes

"I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."
Gen.3:10

2.
shame

I am a bad person

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree and I ate."
Gen.3:12

3.
strategy
to relieve the shame

Mistakes were made but not by me

23

Luke 18

"9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 The **Pharisee** stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the **tax-gatherer**, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

24

Two different strategies in managing the shame of sin

"I'm better than others, I'm pious, I'm virtuous."

"Be merciful to me the sinner."

strategy #1 Pharisee

Deny the truth
Deflect the blame
Defend our image

strategy #2 Publican

See the light
Count the cost
Follow the light

25

Deny the truth

Others are:

legalistic
angry
fearful
careless
selfish
wasteful
materialistic

I am:

principled
intense
cautious
flexible
conservative
generous
tasteful



26

Deflect the blame

"It's not whether you win or lose but where you place the blame."

"Mistakes were made but not by me."

"You need to let me explain...."



27

Defend our image

"God must be proud to have a disciple like ME!"

"Show up, shut up, cough up, look busy, and act holy."

"We are the church of the good looking sheep."



28

A "quiet time"

Time alone with the Spirit of Christ is necessary in combating the tribulations of life.

It is the place where God can
**remind us of the Word of the Cross,
renew our mind, and
reassure our soul**

in preparation for the challenges of life
**where we are called to follow
the Way of the Cross.**

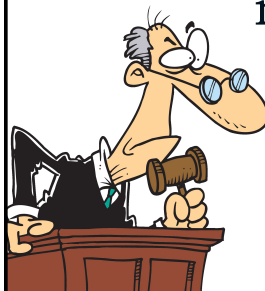
29



30

2 Samuel 24:14

“Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great;
but do not let me fall into human hands.”



31

You said you'd come and share all my sorrows
You said you'd be there for all my tomorrows
I came so close from sending you away
But just like you promised
You came here to stay
I just had to pray

*And Jesus said “come to the water
Stand by my side
I know you are thirsty
You won't be denied
I felt every teardrop
When in darkness you cried
And I'm hear to remind you
For those tears I died.”*

32

Your goodness so great I can't understand
And dear Lord I know that all this was planned
I know your here now, and always will be
Your love loosed my chains and in you I am free
But Jesus why me?

Jesus I give you my heart and my soul.
I know now without you I'd never be whole.
Savior you've opened all the right doors
And I thank you and praise you from earth's
humble shores.
Take me, I'm yours.

33

For Those Tears I Died

composed by Marsha Stevens

The rather “controversial” testimony of
the composer of this powerful song
punctuates the point of the parable of
the Pharisee and the Publican.



**Brace yourself for
a self examination.**

Google - *Marsha Stevens* - Wikipedia.

34