

Parent Study Guide – Bonus Verse 2008-09

THE MIRROR OF TRUTH – James 1:23-24

Passage: *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

-- James 1:23-24 (NIV84)

Theme: THE MIRROR OF TRUTH – God’s word tells you the truth about yourself.

Metaphor: LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD – is like looking into a mirror.

Message: THE TRUTH DOESN’T CHANGE YOU UNLESS YOU USE IT.

Action: BE A DOER OF THE WORD – not just a hearer who deceives himself.

Discussion Questions: Answers are Underlined

1. What is the mirror of truth? – God’s Word.
2. How is hearing the Word like looking into a mirror? – God’s Word doesn’t just tell us about God, heaven and far away things. It also tells us the truth about ourselves.
3. What is the danger of ignoring what we see in the mirror? – We deceive ourselves.
4. How do we deceive ourselves (James 1:22)? – By hearing the truth and not acting on it. By seeing what is real about ourselves, but walking away and ignoring it.
5. What did Jesus say about wise and foolish builders (Luke 6:46-49)? – Only wise builder acted on the truth. The habit of hearing but not responding to the truth leads to ruin.
6. What should happen when we see a problem in the mirror? – We should do something to correct the problem. We should act on what we see.
7. What does this passage say about hearers and doers? – Hearing the truth is not enough. We can hear the truth all our lives and still disobey it. We should be doers, not just hearers.
8. Does knowing the truth change you? -- No, but our response to the truth does change us.

Biblical & Theological Background:

1. Joshua emphasized that the purpose of meditating on God's law (His Word) was so that we would be "careful to do according to all that is written in it" (Joshua 1:8).
2. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized the importance of doing what He taught in the parable of the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49).
3. Hearing the truth but not acting on it, develops a habit of the heart that is both deceitful and dangerous, like a house in a storm, built on sand, collapsing into ruins.
4. Jesus said that His spiritual "family" are those who hear God's Word and put it into practice (Luke 8:20-21), and later He said, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it (Luke 11:27-28).
5. Paul emphasized that the good things we have learned, we should practice (Philippians 4:8-9).
6. All scripture is inspired by God and is uniquely designed to teach, rebuke, correct, train, and equip us for God's service (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
7. The writer of Hebrews described God's Word as a two-edged sword, able to reveal the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).
8. God's Word reveals the truth to us, but it doesn't help us unless we put it into practice.

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the "Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life," go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.