Warning Label
January 17, 2021

The Caution

James 1:19-20 (NIV)

"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."

We don't have a hearing issue we have a heart issue.

Helps on Listening

- Breathe
- Listen with your whole face
- Ask clarifying questions

Proverbs 18:13

"He who answers before listening — that is his folly and his shame."

The Cause

James 1:21

"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."

We weren't designed to BE the king…. we were designed to FOLLOW the king.

The Cure

James 1:22-25

"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."

Being Doers of the Word

1) Listening. Do I listen well?
2) Cleansing. Am I getting rid of the filth?
3) Growing. Is the Word of God being planted in me?

The Application

James 1:26-27

"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."

Martin Luther ~ *"The world does not need a definition of religion as much as it needs a demonstration."*

When our hearts are shaped by what matters to God then our actions will reflect the heart of God.

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