

LISTENING AND DOING

LESSON 2: JAMES ON BUSINESS

Think of an experience in your professional career where you attended an informative meeting or instructional training but with no tangible results. What kept you from applying what you learned? What do you think would have been the key to actually applying what you have learned?

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Kyle has a big problem with turnover at his insurance agency. Out of his 15 employees, 5 have left in the first quarter alone that he has had to replace. He has tried everything from pay raises to variable work schedules to increasing their 401k match. He really can't pay them more than he is, as his profit margins are already nonexistent since the Insurance companies he writes for will not increase their commissions. Kyle needs some quick advice before more employees leave looking for greener pastures.

- Q. How would you advise Kyle?
- Q. How is Kyle to know what motivates his employees?
- Q. How can Kyle retain his employees without paying them more?

JAMES 1:19-27

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.

- Q.** Why do you think James emphasizes the importance of being “quick to listen” before “quick to speak” or “quick to become angry? How does this advice apply to our interactions with other?
- Q.** In verse 22, James urges believers to not only listen to the Word of God but also to do what it says. What are some challenges we face in applying the teachings of the Bible to our lives? How can we overcome these challenges?
- Q.** Verse 27 talks about “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless.” What do you think this pure and faultless religion looks like according to James? How does this compare with common perceptions of religious practice?

James 1:19-27 offers practical guidance for applying faith in the workplace. In our careers we ought to prioritize active listening, controlled speech, and patience. We should be working toward better communication and conflict resolution. We should act on instructions promptly, maintain integrity, and avoid moral compromise, staying above reproach in all interactions. Furthermore, we can demonstrate our faith through compassion, support for colleagues, and engagement in community efforts, contributing to a positive and impactful workplace culture. Overall, James emphasizes the integration of faith into everyday work life, promoting integrity, compassion, and righteous action in all professional endeavors.

Reflecting on your own experiences, what are some practical ways you can apply the principles of James 1:19-27 in your daily walk with God and in your relationships with others?

THE HAND ILLUSTRATION – GAINING A FIRM GRASP OF GOD’S WORD



Adapted from The Hand Illustration, The Navigators