

SERMON OUTLINE James 1:22-25

Be Doers of the Word

THE ROAD OF GODLINESS

THE TWO DITCHES OF DISOBEDIENCE

Ditch One – Doers Only

Ditch Two – Hearers Only

1. *Reason to Avoid this Ditch – Folly*

2. *Reason to Stay on the Road – Blessing*

Practical Ditch Observations

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The heart of this passage is a call for God's people to obey the Word of God no matter how counterintuitive it may be in light of their current circumstances. We ought to do so, James argues, because doing so leads to blessing, while failing to do so is folly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Had you ever thought of the Christian life as a path of freedom, safety, and blessing with deep ditches on each side? How does that reality land on you now?
3. Can you confidently describe the Bible's teaching on the relationship between obedience and the Christian life? (1 John 2:3-6, 1 John 3:10, Matthew 7:17, John 14:23-24, John 15:14)? How would you describe your own obedience as a Christian?
4. Of the two ditches mentioned in the sermon (doer-only and hearer-only), which do you spend the most time in?
5. What comes to mind when you think of the Bible? Given what the Bible says about itself, is it easy to see why it's complete folly to read/hear it and not obey it? How often do you feel blessed when you obey?
6. In a church like ours (one that places a high value on teaching/hearing God's Word), how can you avoid the temptation to be overwhelmed by all the ways you should obey, but aren't, as you encounter more and more commands?
7. What do you make of Pastor Dave's "rubber band" illustration? Have you ever felt that tension? Have you ever felt it snap?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Read the Bible. Do it intentionally. Have some type of reading plan. Commit to taking in the whole counsel of God. Make sure you understand what we're teaching as a church and why (from nursery on up to adults).
10. Commit to not leaving the Bible (whether in your quiet time, a Bible study, a Sunday School class, a sermon, or wherever you encounter God's Word) without some type of specific application this week.
11. Determine if there are any ways you are in a doer-only or hearer-only ditch. If so, find someone to help you get out. Find someone you can help get out of a ditch.
12. Share the gospel with someone this week.
13. Be ready to share a very specific sermon-application you've already made in your DG this week.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for being perfect in every way. Praise God for speaking in such a way that is always good, beautiful, and true. Praise God for being merciful and gracious.
16. Confession. Confess your sins of doing apart from hearing, or hearing apart from doing. Confess your indifference or even frustration with God's Word. Confess any preference you have for one ditch over the other. Confess any indifference you've shown to helping others get out of their own ditches and onto the path of life.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for giving us ears to hear and bodies to obey. Thank God for forgiving us of our doing or hearing sins. Thank God for a church that loves His Word. Thank God for a church that is eager to help one another obey.
18. Supplication. Ask God to save someone in your life. Ask God to help our church walk in biblically-informed obedience. Ask God to help us love His Word. Ask God to keep us from falling into the ditches of sin.