

How You Can Study Scripture With Life-Changing Results *Application (What does the passage mean to me?)*

How You Can Study Scripture With Life-Changing Results.

- 1. Preparation (Am I ready to listen?)**
- 2. Observation (What does the text say?)**
- 3. Interpretation (What does the text mean to the author and his audience?)**
- 4. Application (What does the passage mean to me?)**

Application (What does the passage mean to me?)

James 1:19-25

You must be more than an “auditor” of God’s word.

Auditors...

Sit, listen, take notes, memorize outlines so well could teach the course. They look, they are not necessarily lazy listeners, and they often do this.

Auditors know more.

They discover many new truths about the Bible (Perfect law that gives freedom).

Often emotionally moved by them “understood” more than ever before.

Auditors even see their faults.

They often

Attend church faithfully.

Study Bible diligently (Pharisees did that).

Pastor’s sermons move them deeply.

They are moved, but not changed.

Ezekiel 33:30-32

³⁰“As for you, son of man, your countrymen are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD.’ ³¹My people come to you, as

they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. ³² Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice. ¹

They think they are mature because of what they know.

Can often win (or at least hold their own) on Biblical arguments, delight to do so.

They would rather be right than be changed.

Often critical, condescending to those who don't "see things their way," James 3:13-17.

Do you know what James thinks of this?

They are fools and don't even know it!

You must be a "doer" of God's Word

Doer

Word "poiema" English word poem comes from it. Not one who studies music theory or poetic theory but one who uses what he studies to write the songs, the poems.

What James is talking about here is Change!

You will be a blessed, maturing person if three things are true.

1. You look "intently"

Bent over, studying intently, focusing on the details. Listening carefully and responsibly, not lazy, but aggressive listening.

Me and the front yard. Me and my yard: Oh I want it to look nice, I do cut it, but honestly, I'm not very aggressive in that pursuit. But my neighbors, well, a couple of them pay to have yards fertilized, beyond cutting grass hours weekly, weeding, aerating, planting and trimming shrubs. It is obvious who puts more money and effort into their yards in our neighborhood. They put intensity into their front yards. I don't. It is obvious who does and who doesn't. God wants you to take an aggressive attitude toward listening to his word. But there is more, much more, . . .

2. You "continue" to do this, not forgetting what he has heard," keeping at it until you get it right.

Me and front yard at it all the time, it shows. Lawn cutting, illustration further, Not only do they listen intently They respond perseveringly. They keep at their yards. I want it green. Oh I want it nice but come next spring if it doesn't come up stellar, I'll likely

¹The New International Version, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984.

say, well, I tried. I want a green front yard, but honestly if it doesn't happen. An aggressive attitude towards listening, an aggressive persevering attitude towards keeping at it until he gets it right.

Not, "I'll give it a try to see if it works".

I'll give it a shot to see if it works, not this, but . . .

Keeps searching, investigating until he finds the answer.

Keeps at it until he gets it right, not easily deterred.

Keeps searching, investigating until he finds and practices God's truth

3. You must become characterized not by forgetting, but by doing!

He sees the problem, and changes

He keeps at it until he gets it right (training in righteousness).

What we are talking about here is change

In what ways has your personal Bible study changed you? When was the last time something you heard from God's Word made a lasting difference?

The ABC's

Attitude

Behavior

Conversation

What are you learning that is translating into doing?

He will be blessed in what he does...

How can you apply God's Word?

- 1. What is the one thing the whole thing is talking about?**

What does that mean to me?

- 2. Are your *SPECS* on (vertical)?**

Is there a Sin to confess and forsake?

Is there a Promise or new truth to claim?

Is there an Example to follow or avoid?

Is there a Command to obey?

Is there a Stumbling block to avoid?

- 3. How does this change your relationship with people (horizontal), in what ways do you treat situations differently?**

Spouse?

Brother in Christ?

Service in local church?

Money and work?

Parents, in-laws?

Lost people, the world?

- 4. What one thing will you work on today as a result of what you read? Prayerfully ask God to be at work in your life.**

Laboratory

Get in groups of 3.

Using Matthew 25:14-30, answer questions # 1-3.

Homework

Spend 1 day answering question # 1, support your answers with verses.

Spend 1 day answering question # 2, support your answers with verses.

Spend 1 day answering question # 3, support your answers with verses.