

Sermon Discussion Questions – June 9, 2024

Scripture Passages:

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

Jeremiah 2:13 “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water”

James 1:16-17 Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

John 4:13-14 Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

John 7:37-38 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

James 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

James 1:19-21 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 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.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

James 1:22-24 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:25 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.

Warm Up:

As we officially kick off summer, what are you most looking forward to this summer?

Discussion:

1. Read James 1:3. This week, Pastor Scott started his message with the point:
Temptation speaks to our desire but is not of God.
If temptation speaks to our desires but doesn't come from God, then where does temptation originate? How can we distinguish between a godly desire and temptation?
2. Pastor Scott's second point was:
Temptation deceives us into believing we can meet our own needs.
Have you found yourself trying to meet your own needs? What did you learn through that? How can trusting God to fulfill your needs counter temptation?
3. How does the word of God act as both a saving and transformative force in your life? Can you think of a time when scripture brought you salvation or significant change? What was that like?
4. Pastor Scott talked about humbly accepting the word of God when it confronts us. Do you find yourself doing this? What might it look like in your life for you to cultivate an attitude of humility that allows you to be confronted and transformed by God's word, even when it's difficult?
5. Read James 1:19-20. James emphasizes both listening to God's word and actively doing what it says. Do you find this to be something that comes naturally for you, or is it more difficult? Why?
6. Pastor Scott's last point was:
I intently embrace the word of God to guide me.
Do you find yourself embracing the word of God as a guide? How does it impact your life? If you don't, what is holding you back?

Next Steps:

Pastor Scott ended with these steps:

1. *READ the word every day*

2. *MARK something significant*
3. *MEMORIZE one verse a week*
4. *MEDITATE on it*

Do you find yourself in scripture daily? Do you find yourself speaking Jesus into every area of your life? If not, what is stopping you? If you do, how does that impact your daily life? What next steps might God be calling you to?