

LISTENING AND DOING

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.

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v. 19 Why are we poor listeners? What do you think it takes to be a good listener?

v. 20-21 What does anger have to do with listening?

What is the distinction between human anger and Godly anger? Why is our anger displeasing to God in most cases?

What “moral filth” and evil do we take in that could cause human anger and impair our listening abilities?

What provision does God give us to help us? What does accepting God’s word look like in practical terms?

v. 22-25 What does “looking intently” at God’s word mean? What should our attitude be? How should we be affected?

What are the stated benefits of acting on the word of God?

v. 26-27 Define Religion. What is the distinction between religion and faith?

Our Religion is what others see. It is our witness to the world. How do you live out your religion at work according to these verses? What has been the most difficult part about living out your faith at work? What has helped you persevere?

Describe what your workplace would look like if we did what this passage says? How would your attitude change toward work and your team or your boss or your company?

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

