

Into the Life of Jesus

[a purposeful pause]

Study #12

Review of last week:

- This last week we looked at Mark 7:1-23 together – “Clean from the Inside Out”. As we think back to our study and Sunday’s teaching, what stands out to us – was there something that hit home for us, challenged us, encouraged us, got us thinking or praying? Explain.

This coming Sunday we will take a pause from our Mark series to hear from Eugene Au (International Justice Mission). Our text for this week’s study is **James 1:19-27**.

Take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to hear His Word. And then read the passage aloud a few times (possibly in a few different translations).

- Share any initial observations or questions that emerge from or about the text.
- Note the Greek word in v.20 translated “righteousness” is the same word translated as “justice”. Read the verse twice, switching out the word.
 - What role does human anger often play in seeking justice and righteousness?
 - What are we to do with our natural anger (or indifference) toward injustice?
- Note in v.21 that the call to seek justice and righteousness involves “*humbly accepting the word planted in you*”? In other words, seeking justice isn’t just about others; it’s about God’s work in us. Why is this vital to grasp?
- V.22f put a lot of emphasis on not just hearing God’s word, but do it, acting on it, responding to it. Why is listening not enough?
 - V.35 says that we are “*blessed in our doing*” (NRSV). In what way does putting into practice God’s words deliver, protect or heal us?
- Reflect together on v.26-27 and the call to Godly religion. We don’t like the term religion, but, according to James, God loves religion – when it is alive with His priorities and pursuits.
 - Where has or is God inviting us to live out this kind of redemptive religion?
- Read the whole passage on last time – listening for the word or phrase that God is highlighting to you.

Pray: Share the word or phrase that speaks to you, and then take a few minutes to pray for one another toward the grace of action.