

JUST DO IT:

“How Can I Stay Motivated?”

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (Fayetteville, TN)

Spiritual Emphasis Day Lesson #3 = October 1, 2010

Text: James 1:19-25

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily,²⁰ because anger will not help you live the right kind of life God wants.²¹ So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

²² Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves.²³ Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror.²⁴ They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like.²⁵ But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy. (New Century Version)

Introduction: I love reading the book of James. Because there are times he kicks us in the seat of the pants! Did you know Martin Luther did not want this book put in the Bible? Not because it wasn't accurate or for any scholarly reason, just because it was too harsh. Let's see if James has a solution for the lukewarm wishy washy Christian. Let's see if he can help us to avoid being fair weathered and weak kneed. Let's see if he has a way for us to stay motivated. . . .

Discussion:

I. Take Action (v.22)

Romans 12:11

Acts 20:35

II Timothy 2:16

Matthew 25:14-30

Colossians 4:13

Ephesians 4:11-16

II. Look Into The Mirror (vs.23-24)

Romans 12:11

Philippians 3:12-14

Mark 10:45

Matthew 22:37

Hebrews 12:1

Acts 20:18-19

I Corinthians 13:12

John 13:1-20

I Corinthians 11:1

III. Be Full of Joy (v.25)

I Timothy 4:12

I Peter 4:13

John 15:11

Philippians 4:4

James 1:2

John 16:24

I Thessalonians 5:16

I Thessalonians 2:19-20

John 17:13

Conclusion: Let me go back to that original question. How can we stay motivated? We know the story about how God sent His one and only Son for us. We know that Jesus died in our place. But, we have to learn what it means to be a disciple! A dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. A soldier! And then we need to realize that without that story, our story doesn't make any sense. Paul tells the Christians at Philippi, you be confident, because "God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again." (**Philippians 1:6**) Paul is effectively saying, don't give up, God isn't finished with you yet! Lace up. Start walking. Just do it.