

Handling the Word

Lesson 7 - Application: What Must I Do with This?

Conversation Notes

Today we are asking one simple question

How should I respond to what God has said?

Bible study is not complete when we have noticed, understood, and explained a passage. The Word of God is given to shape our faith, thoughts, desires, choices, words, and actions. Application is the faithful response that follows careful listening.

James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:8-9

A few things we are looking for today

- We remember that Bible study should lead to trust and obedience.
- We do not rush to application before careful reading.
- We ask specific questions about belief, repentance, prayer, trust, obedience, and change.
- We learn that small, faithful steps matter.
- We respond because God has spoken, Christ has redeemed us, and the Spirit helps us walk in truth.

Let's check in honestly.

How did you go with the pre-reading for this session?

Was there a verse or thought that encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out to you?

When you read James 1:22-25, what did it make you think about hearing and doing?

A kind reminder before we read

You do not need dramatic answers. A small, honest response to the Word is not failure.

Application is not about proving your worth to God. We respond because God has spoken, Christ has redeemed us, and the Lord is patient with His people.

A simple Bible study principle

Do not apply before listening. But do not listen without responding.

Application is not the first step in Bible study, but it is an important step. After we have observed, considered context, interpreted carefully, and noticed the kind of writing we are reading, we ask how the truth of the passage should shape our lives before God.

Where application fits

- Observation asks - what does the passage say?
- Context asks - what surrounds this passage?
- Interpretation asks - what does this passage mean?
- Genre asks - what kind of writing am I reading?
- Application asks - what should I do with this before the Lord?

What could go wrong if we rush to application too quickly?

What could go wrong if we understand a passage but never respond to it?

Read and talk together.

James 1:22-25

James reminds us that the Word is not only to be heard. It is to be received, continued in, and obeyed.

What warning is given about hearing the Word without doing it?

What picture does James use with the mirror?

What blessing is connected with continuing in the Word?

Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus compares two builders. Both hear His words, but only one builds wisely.

What do both men hear?

What makes the wise man different from the foolish man?

How does obedience connect with building on the right foundation?

Luke 10:25-37

This passage shows a man asking a question, and Jesus bringing the truth down into a clear call to action.

What question is asked at the beginning of the passage?

How does Jesus answer through the parable?

What does Jesus tell the man to do at the end?

Why should application be specific, not vague?

Romans 12:1-2

Paul moves from God's mercies to a life offered to God. Application includes our thinking, our bodies, our choices, and our worship.

What does Paul urge believers to do in view of God's mercies?

What should not shape us?

How does the renewing of the mind connect with living before God?

A simple application tool

After reading carefully, ask:

- Believe - what truth should I believe?
- Confess - what sin, attitude, fear, or habit should I turn from?
- Trust - what promise or truth should I rest in?
- Obey - what command should I do?
- Pray - what can I ask God for?
- Give thanks - what should lead me to worship?
- Change - what is one small, specific step I can take?

Philippians 4:8-9

Paul connects what believers think about with what they practice. Faithful application shapes both the mind and the life.

What are believers told to meditate on?

What does Paul say to practice?

Why do both thinking and doing matter in faithful application?

Pulling it together

Finish this sentence in your own words: Application helps me...

What is one danger of vague application?

What is one small response you may need to take this week?

Today's simple takeaway

Faithful Bible study leads to faithful response.

We do not rush to application, but neither do we stop at information. The Word of God is given to teach, correct, strengthen, and shape us so that we trust and obey the Lord.

This week - keep it simple.

Read **Matthew 7:24-27** twice during the week. Each time, write one honest sentence about how hearing Jesus' words and doing them could look in your life.

Hearing Jesus' words and doing them could look like...

Keep it small, honest, and specific. One faithful step is enough.

Prayer to finish

Lord, help me not to be a hearer only. Teach me to listen carefully, understand faithfully, and respond with trust and obedience. Show me one faithful step to take, and help me walk in it by Your grace. Amen.