This week’s reading assignment: James 1:21-27
Reflection by Bob Zurinsky, SPU Center for Worship

We’ve got a very short passage from James to deal with this week – short but powerful. And maybe convicting.

We know the story. We know the good news of Christ. We know God’s plan for the world. We know our mission. We know all we need to know. And now James says, “What are you going to DO?”

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror and, after looking, go away and immediately forget what they look like” (James 1:22-24).

So what is “the word” that we have been given? How about if we just start with the teachings of Jesus himself? This is just some of what we saw in the book of Matthew last quarter:

Let go of anger toward others (Mt. 5:21-22a)
Turn the other cheek (Mt. 5:38)
Give to all who ask (Mt. 5:42)
Love even your enemies (Mt. 5:43-45)
Do your giving and serving in secret (Mt. 6:1-2)
Don’t store up wealth for yourself (Mt. 6:19-21)
Do not worry (Mt. 6:25-26)
Do not judge others (Mt. 7:1-2)
Proclaim the kingdom: heal, cleanse, give (Mt. 10:7-8)
Save your life by giving it up (Mt. 16:24-25)
Take the humble place (Mt. 18:1-4)

Now what are we going to do?