



Wednesday in the Word

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James

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James Outline

Summary: James is writing to:

| CHAPTER | THEME | KEY VERSE |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

Background & Setting

Read through the entire book looking for the following. Consult commentaries and bible encyclopedias as needed.

The author:

The recipients:

Why the author wrote this:

Type of literature:

Historical Background:

Key Words: for example: trials/temptations/testing; faith; the word; wisdom

Who was James?

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Luke 6:13-16

Matthew 13:55

Mark 3:20-21

John 7:2-5

1Corinthians 15:3-8

Acts 1:13-14

Acts 8:1

Galatians 1:15-19

Acts 11:19-30

Galatians 2:1-10

Acts 12:1-2

Acts 12:17

Galatians 2:11-14

Acts 15

Acts 21:18-26

James 1:1-8

1. Define the following: trials testing steadfastness wisdom doubt
2. What does it mean to "rejoice in suffering"? What does it not mean?
3. How do you think James would answer this question: "What is the role of prayer during trials?"
4. How do you think wisdom differs from knowledge? How do you know when you have gained wisdom and how do you know when you lack it?
5. What's the difference between doubting and "double-minded"? How do you know which is which in your life?

James 1:9-18

1. In verses 9-11, who are the "lowly" and who are the "rich"? What temptations do you think each group would face? How do you think James would encourage them? Which group would James put you in?
2. Do you think there's a difference between the trials of verses 1-11 and the temptations in verses 12-18? Why?
3. According to James, what is God's role in temptation? How does that fit with Jesus' teaching us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil"?
4. What do you think it means to be deceived? And how do we avoid it?
5. How do the "good gifts" (vs 17) relate to "being deceived" (vs 16)? How do "good gifts" protect us from being deceived?
6. What is more troubling to you: self-deception or deception from outside sources? Why?

James 1:19-27

1. James gives three commands in vs 19: "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." Do you think he's being unrealistic? How do we obey these?
2. Do you think there is a biblical distinction between "good anger" and "bad anger"? Why or why not? What causes each type?
3. Compare and contrast the "doers" and "hearers" in this passage. How do you recognize the difference?
4. Why do you think we so easily stand before the mirror of Scripture without being changed or seeing ourselves clearly?
5. How would you finish this sentence: "True religion consists of these three things --"? Or "True religion does not require these three things --"?
6. Summarize James chapter 1 in your own words.

James 2:1-7

1. How do you define favoritism? What causes it? What prevents it?
2. What does James mean in 2:4 "judges with evil thoughts"? How would such a person act?
3. Why do you think favoritism is inappropriate among believers?
4. Do you see the problem James describes in this section in your church? If so, how?
5. Other than wealth, on what basis do we show partiality and/or make distinctions in the church?

James 2:8-13

1. Define: "the royal law" (vs 8); "law of liberty" (vs 12); judgment & mercy (vs 13)
2. What does it mean to "love your neighbor"? What does it look like in daily life?
3. What does 2:14 mean in the context of chapter 1-2?
4. What does 2:17 mean in the context of chapter 1-2?
5. What are the biggest obstacles to being merciful? How can we face them and/or overcome them as individuals? And as a church?
6. A key word in James 2 is "say". You have heard people "say" things about their salvation: *"I am going to heaven because I have given a lot of money to the church and have done many good deeds;" "I am going to heaven because everyone in my family is a good Christian and goes to church;" "Once saved, always saved. I was a committed believer for many years. I know I have strayed for the past few years, but I did make that commitment earlier."* How would you respond to them in the light of Scripture, particularly what we have learned from James?

James 2:14-26

1. What does 2:17 mean in the context of chapter 1-2?
2. What are the biggest obstacles to being merciful? How can we face them and/or overcome them as individuals? And as a church?
3. Define faith as James uses it in chapter 2.
4. Define works as James uses in it chapter 2.
5. From your study of James so far, explain in your own words the relationship between faith and works.
6. Look closely at James' account of Abraham. How does Abraham's story support James' argument?
7. Where else do you see examples of faith producing works? In your own life? In the church? In the Bible?
8. Summarize chapter 2 in your own words.

James 3:1-12

1. What is the basic theme of verses 1-6?
2. Define self-control. What is its purpose according to James?
3. How have you seen the power of the tongue in your own life?
4. Summarize the main point of verses 7-12?
5. What is the purpose of stating that an olive tree cannot bear figs, etc?
6. Does this discussion of the tongue and self-control encourage or discourage you? Why?

James 3:13-4:6

1. How would you identify a wise person?
2. Define "wisdom from above" as used in this passage.
3. Compare and contrast James' definition of a wise person with our culture's definition. With Charlottesville culture in particular. With our church.
4. What is the relationship between "bitter jealousy" and "selfish ambition" and wisdom? Why would such a person be considered wise?
5. Define the traits of the wise in verse 17. What do they look like in daily life?
6. From your observation what causes the fights and quarrels in your church or in your community?
7. Define "passions" and "desire" as used in this passage.
8. What does "friendship with the world" look like?
9. In your opinion what values and attitudes from the world have crept into the church?

James 4:7-17

1. How would you answer a new believer who asked you what "resisting the devil" looks like?
2. How does this passage change or influence your definition of repentance?
3. How important is it to speak honestly and truthfully to one another?
4. In what ways do we mistakenly judge our neighbors?
5. What new attitudes or changes in behavior do you think James wants to see in his readers?
6. Do you think James would discourage planning for the future?
7. Summarize chapter 4 in your own words.

James 5:1-11

1. What people do you think James' is addressing here? For instance, are they in the church or outside the church? Who would these people be today?
2. Do you think James is being too hard on the rich in this passage? Why?
3. What constitutes "luxury" and "self-indulgence" (vs 5)? How do we know when we've crossed that line?
4. Do you think you could lack wealth and be guilty of the same attitudes and offenses described in this passage?
5. Define patience.
6. How do you think patience relates to the second coming of Christ?
7. How do we "grumble against" each other? How is grumbling related to patience?
8. What do you think James wants us to learn from the examples of the prophets and Job?
9. What helps you exercise patience and avoid grumbling?

James 5:12-20

1. What is the prayer of faith in vs 15?
2. What does this section add to your understanding of prayer? Sickness and sin?
3. What do you think is the purpose for praying for yourself? For others?
4. Do you think James is promising too much in this section? Why?
5. Summarize chapter 5 in your own words.
6. Summarize the entire letter in 2-3 sentences.
7. Share your favorite verse(s) from James and why they are significant to you.
8. What have you learned about trials and their purpose from James? About faith?
9. How would you describe this book to someone who has never read it?