

Series Title: Get Real  
James Intro  
James 1:1

I. Intro

A. A study in James

1. My hope is that you will allow the word to instruct you.
2. That you will purposefully yield your heart to God.
3. That you will be open to the truth overwhelming your pride, and stubbornness as you are reminded of God's standard, and His provision of Grace.
4. Practice spiritual breathing during this study...
  - a) Breathe in the spiritual truth, and the GRACE of God
  - b) Breathe out the unrepentant heart, the justification of sin, and the self righteousness
5. James is a confrontation of sorts. Receive it from the God who is full of mercy and grace, but does not change the truth because it is hard.

B. Theme: Real faith produces maturity

C. Facts:

1. This is a General Epistle, not to a specific church
2. Written by James, the brother of Jesus and Pastor in Jerusalem (most likely)
3. Written in 49 ad, prior to the Jerusalem counsel held in 50 ad.
4. Letter for all those caught up in the diaspora, the scattering of believers throughout the land due to persecution.
5. Summary: This letter was written to all believers. The content is basic truth of the faith. The recipients were in need of the support of the community of believers and were facing the hardest of hardships. This is a letter of correction, and a letter of hope in Christ.
6. This letter seems to be closely related to the Sermon in the Mount:
  - a) There are 19 or so cross-references with the Sermon on the Mount
  - b) The themes and the truth match up directly
7. CHALLENGE:
  - a) Compare and Contrast James with the Sermon on the Mount
  - b) Read them together and start marking cross references.
  - c) See how many direct quotations, and general references you find.

D. Key Verses:

1. [Jas 1:5 ESV] 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
2. [Jas 2:17 ESV] 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
3. [Jas 4:7 ESV] 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

E. Key themes:

1. God is the source of all wisdom
  - a) The Greek word for wisdom (sophia) occurs four times in the letter of James
  - b) James (1:5; 3:13, 15, 17).
2. Testing and Trials
3. Wealth and Oppression
4. Material things will not last
5. The Unjust Rich
6. Everything Belongs to God
7. Favoritism
8. Godly speech
9. Faith and Works
  - a) The word Perfect is used 7 times
  - b) We are not excusing poor behavior in our study of James

10. The Law

F. Truth of note:

1. In the midst of hardship and persecution, the challenge to live a life worthy of the calling was still before the church.
2. The standard was not relaxed because things were hard, when things are hard we strive to be an example.

II. Text

A. James

1. In Hebrew: Jacob
2. In Spanish: Santiago!
3. Several disciples named James, this one is believed to be the half brother of Jesus:
  - a) Because of the content of the letter
  - b) Because of the

B. Servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Best translated BONDSERVANT
2. This is a picture of the believer from the start

C. To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion

1. People from the Jewish culture that have received messiah
2. And who have also received persecution

D. Greetings:

1. A letter from the church leadership
2. Word: CHAIRO: mostly translated REJOICE.
  - a) KJV: rejoice (42x), be glad (14x), joy (5x), hail (5x), greeting (3x), God speed (2x), all hail (1x), joyfully (1x), farewell (1x).
  - b) All translations handle it as greetings in this context, but that is a little light in the full translation.
  - c) Next verse...count it all CHARA...Joy
3. That really sets the tone differently...Rejoice in persecution

III. Point: Rejoice!

A. One Point today...due to some giving me a hard time about never finishing on time

1. Illustration: Maria in Guatemala
2. Greetings can be hidden blessings
  - a) Adios: to God in Spanish
  - b) Buenos Dias: Good Day...a greeting that can replace hello and goodbye
  - c) Mahola: thanks, gratitude, praise, regards, respect: Used for everything

B. POINT: REJOICE

1. Wake up from your self centeredness...and REJOICE
2. Stay on Mission...and REJOICE
3. Accept the Challenge...and REJOICE
4. Look at the positive things...and REJOICE
5. Rejoice, in the trials and the triumphs, because GOD is STILL AT WORK!

IV. Close