

SERMON OUTLINE James

Be Not Hearers Only

WHO WAS JAMES?

WHAT PROMPTED JAMES TO WRITE THIS LETTER?

WHAT DOES THIS LETTER LOOK LIKE FROM HIGH UP?

One Banner (1:22-25; 2:14-26)

Big Principles

1. *Christians trust God during trials (1:2-4, 12-16; 5:7-11, 13-20)*
2. *Christians look to God as source of all wisdom (1:5-8; 3:13-18)*
3. *Christians are humble and associate with the humble (1:9-11; 2:1-13; 4:6, 10; 5:1-6)*
4. *Christians understand that all good things come from God (1:16-18)*
5. *Christians talk in godly ways (1:19-21, 26; 3:1-12; 4:11-12; 5:12)*
6. *Christians reject the ways of the world (4:1-10)*

Commands

Glory of God

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

In this first, introductory sermon on James my aims are to 1) Set you up well for the text-specific sermons to come by helping you see the big picture of James, and 2) Help you see a bit of the unique glory of God in James. In so doing, I hope to help you see that the main charge in James is to *be not hearers only, but doers also*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever read the book of James before? What was your initial impression? Having heard it read today, did you notice anything different?
3. What do you make of the fact that James was Jesus' brother? What do you make of the fact that James didn't believe in Jesus until after Jesus' resurrection? Do these things make the letter more or less significant to you?
4. Have you ever struggled to understand the relationship between salvation by grace alone through faith alone and the place of good works in the Christian life? Are there any specific ways that James helps add to or relieve that tension?
5. Which of the six big principles of James do you most need to live in light of?
6. Which of the commands of James is easiest and which is hardest for you to obey?
7. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

8. Read the entire letter of James three times this week. On the third time through, make a list of the top ten questions you have.
9. Keep it simple...identify the commands in James that you need to obey, ask God for help, obey in faith.
10. Watch the Bible Project's video on James with someone else.
11. Create some kind of visual representation of the book of James.
12. Pick one of the James principles and memorize a key passage on it as a means of better living in light of it.
13. Tell a non-Christian of the kind of salvation described in James.
14. Ask someone in your DG how you can pray for and otherwise help them live out the commands in James.
15. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

16. Adoration. Praise God for His sovereign, sanctifying grace. Praise God for causing the brother of Jesus to believe in Jesus. Praise God for giving us His Word through many different men.
17. Confession. Confess ways you are not obeying the commands of God. Confess any ways you have been content with hearing and not doing. Confess any ways you have been doing apart from hearing (living according to your will instead of God's).
18. Thanksgiving. Thank God for the book of James. Thank God for Grace Church to help you understand and live it out. Thank God for always giving saving and sanctifying grace together. Thank God that He is worthy of all obedience.
19. Supplication. Pray for God to open the eyes of the hearts of all of your neighbors (especially through your faithful witness). Ask God to help you be more eager to serve than to be served. Ask God to make us a church that helps one another obey.