

SERMON OUTLINE James

The Big Truths and Main Themes of James

HIGH LEVEL TRUTHS ABOUT JAMES

1. *James Was Jesus' Half-brother*
2. *Not Hearers Only*
3. *James Is a Book of Commands*

MAIN THEMES IN JAMES

1. *God uses every trial in a Christian's life as an instrument for our growth in godliness*
2. *God's people need wisdom, God has all wisdom, and God delights to give it to those who seek it from Him*
3. *Temptation to commit new sins comes to Christians when the lingering effects of our old sin nature well up inside us, promising things they cannot truly deliver and delivering things we'd never want*
4. *God only gives good gifts to His people, and good gifts come only from God*
5. *Godly people listen first and most*
6. *Godly people are continually working to put off sin and to walk in righteousness*
7. *James tells us that the greatest form of Christian obedience is to care for the most vulnerable in society—orphans and widows*
8. *Faith apart from works is dead*
9. *Worldliness and godliness are incompatible*
10. *God is in charge*
11. *Christian love looks different than worldly love*
12. *Jesus is coming back and He will set all things right*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

This sermon consists of revisiting three high level truths about James and twelve main themes. My main hopes in doing this are: (1) To fill in a few James-gaps from sermons you may have missed, (2) Look at what it means to have genuine faith in Jesus according to James and encourage you to do so, (3) Recap James's description of what it means to live out our faith in Jesus and encourage you to do so, and (4) Remind you of the great grace of God that is already working all of this out in those who believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What has stood out to you from James? Did you learn anything specific? Has God used James in any particular ways?
3. Which high-level truth about James seems most significant to you (he was Jesus' half-brother, the main theme is to be doers of the Word of God and not hearers only, and James as a book of commands)?
4. Have you handled any trials or temptations differently since we started going through James?
5. Are there any ways in which you've become a better listener or sin fighter from our time in James?
6. Can you think of any ways you've more intentionally cared for the vulnerable in light of James?
7. Have you grown at all in being a more loving person because of James's teaching?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Pick one of the themes of James, pray over it, study it more deeply, and then find a way to live it out.
10. Ask God and another Christian for biblical wisdom for a specific area of your life.
11. Ask the Together for Good crew if there's any way to help this week? Give generously to the Nelson's adoption.
12. Share the good news of a God who provides what He requires with someone.
13. Write a song, paint or draw a picture, or otherwise artistically try to capture some aspect of James.
14. 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

15. Adoration. Pick an attribute of God displayed in James and praise God for it. Praise God for being perfectly benevolent. Praise God for being the governor of all. Praise God for being filled with love and care. Praise God for being totally wise.
16. Confession. Confess any ungodly response you've had to trials, seeking wisdom from the world, giving into sinful temptation, looking for good outside of God, being a poor listener, apathy toward sin or vulnerable people, worldliness, or lovelessness.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for James. Thank God for our time in James this year. Thank God for His mercy and grace. Thank God for caring for you when you were vulnerable. Thank God for the baptisms this week. Thank God for those who make our Sunday gatherings possible and God-centered.
18. Supplication. Pray for David and Kylee to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord after their baptisms. Pray for Krista as she gets ready to leave for France. Pray for James to keep a proper hold on our lives. Pray for Grace Church to grow in spiritual health.