**MAY 2021 SERMON SERIES**

**TITLE:** *JAMES – listen to my little brother*

**TAG:** *We must listen to a man who believed his brother was GOD.*

**THEME VERSE:** *James 1:1*

**James 1:1 NIV //** *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*“What would your brother have to do, to convince you that he was God.” - Andy Stanley*

**WHY: The GOAL of the SERIES**

* James taught the church some of the greatest lessons for life.
* James was willing to die for this Jesus & this message.
* What would life look like if we lived these truths in our everyday life?

**James the little brother of Jesus**

* James has credibility. Brothers will die for one another. But this brother was willing to die after his brother was gone. He believed Jesus was the son of God. Dead. Buried. Raised. Seated. Return.

**James – review history of James & his death**

* Martyred for the cause of Jesus Christ
* Scribes & Pharisees threw him from the pinnacle of the temple

**Some scholars agree:** “we have not done well in procuring this testimony of Jesus Christ. let’s go up, throw him down, and they will fear believing in Jesus.”

* He plummeted down. The fall did not kill him.
* He began praying for them
* Stop praying // he would not stop praying or denounce his faith in Jesus
* They stoned him. some say he was also beat in the head with a club that you wring out & beat your clothes

**James prayed for his murderers:**

I beseech the Lord God our Father forgive them for they know no what they do.

**We must believe in a man who believed his brother was the Lord Jesus Christ**

* Lord = Father in Heaven
* Jesus = Savior // Word became flesh
* Christ = Holy Spirit – Christ in you the hope of glory

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***SERMONS BY THE WEEK***

**WEEK 1 // WHAT DO I DO NOW?**

**James 1:1, 2-5, 6-17 NIV //** *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.* ***2*** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,* ***3*** *because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.* ***4*** *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* ***5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you****.*

***MESSAGE in 1 Sentence: Getting Thru What You Are Going Thru.***

***QUOTE:*** *“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” CS Lewis*

**INTRO the SERIES**

* WHY JAMES IS CREDIBLE
* JAMES - TRYING SITUATIONS & DEATH
* James as SR. Pastor of Church of Jerusalem – speaks to the trials the church is going thru.

**CONNECTION … (What are the emotions, struggles and feelings people are going through)**

* Family Dynamics & Funny Family Stories
* Jesus & James (fun examples of sibling rivalry)
* Personal Story // Family Trials & Tough Situations we all go thru

***WE ALL SAY WE ARE GOING THRU IT BUT WE ARE REALLY SAYING WE HOPE WE GET THRU IT.***

We go through DIVERSE TRIALS. Spectrum of Pain. Do not trivialize.

* ***VARIOUS – multi-colored // whatever you are going thru***
* Frustrated, Insecurity, After Math of PAIN, We SUPPRESS our PAIN
* PROCESS of PAIN
* At SELF – because we judge ourselves in our Trials, Temptations, Pain

TODAY – we must learn HOW to GET THRU WHAT

***WHAT YOU GO TO IN THE PROCESS DETERMINES HOW YOU GO THRU IT***

* PROCESS of TEMPTATION
* PROCESS of PAIN
* PROCESS of ENDURANCE

**CONTENT**

* James 1:1-17
* James 1:5 // ASK FOR HELP
* CS. Lewis Quote
* Not lacking anything // Without Finding Fault

***YOU ARE GOING TO GET THRU IT***

* ***But WHERE will you be on the other side of it?***

***CHOOSE: WE GET TO DETERMINE WHERE WE END UP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF WHAT WE ARE GOING THRU.***

**JAMES 1:12** – ENDURE the CROWN of LIFE

**JAMES 1:13** – GOD IS (not) TEMPTING ME.

* (Satan says BLAME GOD // James says ASK MY BROTHER)
* God gives GENEROUSLY – to ALL – WITHOUT FINDING FAULT

**JAMES 1:14** – DESIRE, DRUG AWAY, ENTICE, DEATH

* ANGER, BITTERNESS

**CONCRETE - HOW TO GET THRU IT – REAL STEPS to overcome**

* Get God’s View or Perspective
* Trials Help Me Grow Up
* Trials Can Bring Temptation
* What Do I Do Now? ASK For Help
* You GET THRU, GO THRU IT, or YOU Grow Thru It

JAMES – followed thru on going thru it.

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**WEEK 2 // DO IT AFRAID!**

**James 2:14-24, 26 NIV //** *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?****15*** *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.****16*** *If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?****17*** *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* ***18*** *But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.* ***19*** *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

***20*** *You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?* ***21*** *Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* ***22*** *You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* ***23*** *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.* ***24*** *You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.****26*** *As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*

**Quote:** *“It is impossible to separate or take sides on faith or works—it is as trying to separate a burning flame from its brightness.” – Martin Luther*

**MESSAGE in 1 SENTENCE: DO IT AFRAID!**

***EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO DO; YOU HAVE TO DO IT AFRAID***

**THEME VERSES:**

**CONTINUE**

* WHY JAMES IS CREDIBLE
* WHY some DISCOUNT JAMES

**JAMES vs. PAUL**

* *James says WORKS // Paul says GRACE/FAITH*
* *James says FRUIT // Paul says ROOT*
* *James says SHOW // Paul says KNOW*

**PAUL – even wrote it is for good works...**

**James & Paul are not contradicting one another but rather complimenting.**

*“A LITTLE LESS CONVERSATION; A LITTLE MORE ACTION” - Elvis Presley*

***US: JAMES SHOWS US // 4 THINGS FAITH IS NOT***

1. ***FAITH IS NOT JUST TALK***
* *Fun Church People Phrases*
1. ***FAITH IS NOT JUST FEELINGS***
* *We are EMOTIONAL but not to be lead by EMOTIONS.*
* *“I FEEL FOR YOU”*
* *Feelings without FOLLOW THRU feels cheap.*
1. ***FAITH IS NOT JUST INTULLECT***
2. ***FAITH IS NOT JUST PASSIVE BELIEF***
* *Even demons believe. Satan knows about God.*
* *It is what you do with that BELIEF that matters most.*

***FAITH MUST BE ACTIVE // FAITH WITHOUT ACTION is FICTION.***

* Faith without WORKS is DEAD.
* Moves, Active, Does Something

***DOING SOMETHING IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING***

* *STOP DOING NOTHING*
* *Good intentions means nothing*
* *Ex: I was going to give you flowers...but it’s the thought that counts?*

***2 STORIES of ACTIVE FAITH***

***ABRAHAM*** *– God spoke to HIM and he moved to a land he did not know.*

* *BIG MOVE. Leave the KNOWN. UNKNOWN.*
* **Abraham** – (insider believer) the father of FAITH // give up your son
* Took a step into a DEEPER relationship with God

*RAHAB – Risked life for the 2 spies. Jericho. Red Thread. Lineage of Jesus*

* *SCARY. She could DIE. What if? // DO IT AFRAID // (ROPE)*
* *LIFE LINE*
* **Rahab** – (outsider) the prostitute // give up your past, safety, life
* She wanted her family to be spared
* So that when the city would be destroyed
* All the walls came down except one // RED scarlet thread

*Q) WHY DOES GOD ASK US TO DO SOMETHING?*

* *GOD HAS SOMETHING BETTER FOR US, FUTURE, FAMILY*

***FAITH IS NOT JUST FOR ME; IT LEAVES A LEGACY***

* *IMPACTS OTHERS*
* *STORY of HOMELESS MISSION – not just good meals; lives changing!*

**CONCRECTE STEPS**

**TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP; YOU HAVE TO DO IT AFRAID**

**RED ROPE illustration // DO IT AFRAID**

1. **CHOOSE JESUS (1st time, Renew, Follow Him)**
2. **CHOOSE FORGIVENESS (stop talking about them)**
* Relationships // Restored // Healed
1. **CHOOSE COMPASSION (stop feeling & start fulfilling)**
* Jesus walked towards peoples PAIN.
* He felt but he DEALT.
1. **CHOOSE COMMUNITY (summer groups)**
* Commit to CHURCH
* Commit to SERVE
1. **CHOOSE GENEROSITY**
* Scary to Commit to GIVE

**CHARISMA**

CONVO YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO HEAR // LISTEN TO YOUR MOMMA

*WHEN YOUR FAITH WORKS*

**Q) WHY DOES FAITH MATTER?**

* FAITH THAT DOESN’T CHANGE YOU DOESN’T SAVE YOU

**TENSION: We ALL KNOW we need to have faith & take a step**

* **WE ALL WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTERS**
* **BUT WHY DO WE NOT TAKE THE STEP?**
* Because we have to GIVE UP SOMETHING // IT’s SCARY!!!

**Abraham** – (insider believer) the father of FAITH // give up your son

* Took a step into a DEEPER relationship with God

**Rahab** – (outsider) the prostitute // give up your past, safety, life

* She wanted her family to be spared
* So that when the city would be destroyed
* All the walls came down except one // RED scarlet thread

**FAITH IS RISKY because it gives up something!**

**SOMETHINGS ONLY WORK BEST WHEN YOU PUT TOGETHER**

* Peanut Butter & Jelly

**Q) WHAT HAS GOD BEEN ASKING YOU TO DO?**

**Q) WHAT DOES TRUSTING GOD LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?**

* We must FORGIVE
* We must START by
* Take a STEP...DO SOMETHING

**FAITH IS RISKY & VISIBLE**

* COURAGE & CLARITY
* Reject the notion that there is SAFE FAITH

**IS YOUR WORKS OUT OF BEING SEEN?**

* IS YOUR FAITH BASED ON JUST KNOWING MUCH (head knowledge)
* IS YOUR FAITH JUST WORKS (but based on wrong motive / doing)

**CONNECTION**

* Family Dynamics & Funny Family Stories

**CONTENT**

* James 2:14-26
* Martin Luther Quote
* WE DEMONSTRATE OUR FAITH // ACTION

**CONCRETE**

* James 2:15-16 // FAITH THAT WHINES (words only)
* James 2:18-19 // FAITH THAT WORKS
* James 2:21-22 // FAITH THAT WORSHIPS

Q) WHERE ARE THE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE DOING NOTHING?

* Jesus & James (fun examples of EITHER/OR sibling rivalry)
* Personal Story // opportunity to help someone – I’m praying for ya?!

Q) WHAT STEP DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TODAY?

* Start a Business. Forgive. Serve. Give. Meet a Need.
* What if our works where motivated more by FEAR?
* Get to know a person well enough to know what they need.
* Do it afraid.

**SHOW ME – FAITH IS VISIBLE!!**

* **DO IT AFRAID...whatever he is asking you to do!**

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**WEEK 3 // Building Ladders**

**James 3:13-18 NIV // *13*** *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.* ***14*** *But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.* ***15*** *Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* ***16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.***

***17*** *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.* ***18*** *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

**MESSAGE in 1 SENTENCE: *Be a ladder builder not a ladder climber.***

**CONTINUE //** JAMES IS SMART // WALKING PROVERB

**CONNECTION**

* Family Dynamics & Funny Family Stories
* Jesus & James ***(ex. of sibling sports – competitive advantage)***
* ***You think you have competitive issues? // James vs. Jesus***
* *JESUS a Carpenter, Smart, Wine, Boat Race – Foot!, Fish with GOLD*

***ME: story of TRYING to GET COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE***

* *Problem – wants to win no matter the cost*

***WE: all agree that NO one wants to LOSE // we want WIN***

* *But we have the view that if you WIN // I LOSE*

**WORLD SAYS // SOCIETY SAYS**

* Get Ahead
* Bend Rules
* Climb Ladder - how fast you can get top

**WE ALL think we want to climb but God asks is to BUILD.**

* Climbing is Competitive (self & others)
* Building is Beautiful

**EPH 4:11-16** - equip others to do ministry

* as each one does its work // it builds itself...the body...up

**US: Building Ladders is WISER than Climbing Ladders.**

WISDOM IS KEY THING! - wisdom is the principal thing

* JAMES 3:13 - “by deeds done in the HUMILITY comes from WISDOM”
* WE NEED WISDOM // “SKILLED LIVING”

***Q) WHAT STOPS ME FROM BUILDING OTHERS UP? BEING A LADDER BUILDER?***

* *Lead our lives from the place of COMPARISON*
* *Lead into FEAR, Fear of Getting Behind, Not Fair*
* *Envy, Strife, Trying to Get Ahead, or Keep Up With*

IT HAS TO SHIFT // heart & culture

* I HOPE YOU WIN (to)
* I WILL HELP YOU WIN (to)
* YOUR WIN IS MY WIN

YOUR LOSS IS MY LOSS TOO

**WISE PEOPLE ARE LADDER BUILDERS NOT LADDER CLIMBERS**

**IDENTIFY // MISSTEPS OF LADDER CLIMBERS**

1. **HARBOR BITTER ENVY (in your heart)**
* *Boasting & Deny the Truth*
1. **SELFISH AMBITION**
* *Political Ambition // Exploitation*
* Willing to do whatever it takes to personally get where I want regardless of how it impacts others
* *We can work together as long as get me where I am going*
* **Earthly, Unspiritual, Demonic**

**FALL of LADDER CLIMBERS**

* **ENVY, STRIFE, DISORDER, EVERY EVIL PRACTICE**

**CRAB THEORY - BUCKET ILLUSTRATION**

[**https://impossiblehq.com/crabs-in-a-bucket/**](https://impossiblehq.com/crabs-in-a-bucket/)

* The theory is they think they can latch on to get out. Won’t let the other crab get it.
* TALL POPPY SYNDROME

**STEPS of LADDER BUILDERS**

***17*** *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere*

***IT TAKES A SERVANT LEADER TO BUILD A LADDER RATHER THAN CLIMB ONE***

**1- PURE First Step**

* Titus 1:15 // Matt Pure heart will see God
* Meditation of heart drives motivation

**2- PEACE LOVING**

* Words & Argument
* Resolve conflict by starting with me

IN CONFLICT – never go into a tough conversation with your own (worldly) wisdom // go in with heavenly wisdom

**3- CONSIDERATE**

* New thoughts
* Chooses the possibility I could be wrong

**4- SUBMISSIVE**

* Willing to Yield

**5- MERCIFUL**

* Covers others wrongs
* Show mercy & things get good

**6- GENUINE**

* impartial & sincere
* Hypocrite

**JAMES 3:18 NIV /**/ ***18*** *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

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**WEEK 4 // Someday is Today.**

**James 4:13-17 NIV // *13*** *Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”****14*** *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.* ***15*** *Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”* ***16*** *As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.* ***17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.***

**Quote:** “Unless we purposely live with a view to the next world, we cannot make much out of our present existence.” – Charles Spurgeon

**Quote:** “Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth ‘thrown in’: aim at Earth and you will get neither.” – C.S. Lewis

**Quote:** “Someday I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying, like tomorrow was a gift, and you’ve got eternity think about: What did I do with it?” – Tim McGraw

**Quote:** “Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose today, and is returning tomorrow.” – Martin Luther

***Q) What would I do differently if I only had 30 days to live?***

**Quote:** “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” – Mark Twain

**MESSAGE IN 1 SENTENCE:**

**CONTINUE**

* JAMES lived & died like JESUS // father forgive them as he was dying

**CHARISMA**

**CONNECTION**

* Family Dynamics & Funny Family Stories
* Jesus & James ***(come on James, you know better)***
* Personal Story // about an accident/rushing...”I know better”
* Personal Story // procrastination

***LIFE IS A MIST (spray bottle illustration)***

**PROCRASTINATION**

**CONTENT**

* James 4:13-17
* LIFE IS SHORT
* START
* ACTS 24

**SIN of OMISSION**

* **Sin of omission: what about the things we must start doing?**

**CONCRETE**

* CAN the EXCUSES
* LIVE LIKE IT MATTERS
* CHOOSE BETTER // LIVE IN GOD’s PURPOSE
* THERE IS A DEADLINE

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**WEEK 5 //Who’s In Trouble?**

**James 5:13-17 NIV // *13*** *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.* ***14*** *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.* ***15*** *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.* ***16*** *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

***17*** *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.*

**MESSAGE in 1 SENTENCE:**

**QUOTES: PRAYER quotes**

**CONTINUE**

* JAMES KNEW HOW TO PRAY
* HIS CLOSING THOUGHTS BEFORE HE DIED
* FATHER FORGIVEN THEM...I wonder if Jesus forgive those men?

**CHARISMA**

**CONNECTION**

* Family Dynamics & Funny Family Stories
* Jesus & James
* Personal Story // about prayer (healing, confession, forgiveness)

**Q) IS ANYONE NOT IN A GOOD PLACE? TROUBLE? HAPPY? SICK? NOT WELL?**

**WHEN GOING THRU PAIN WHAT’s ON THE INSIDE COMES OUT (explicative)**

CONFESS TO ONE ANOTHER

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

**CONTENT**

* James 5:13-17
* We are human and God still wants me to pray.
* We are in trouble and God asks us to pray.
* James 5:19-20

ELIJAH – was human. he prayed. God listened.

COMMUNITY of BELIEVERS TOGETHER

* PRAY
* PRAY TOGETHER
* SICK HEALED. CONFESS SIN. FORGIVEN.

IF YOU ARE HAPPY & WELL – keep singing

**CONCRETE**

* PRAY. SING. ELDERS PRAY.

Prayer is the difference between the best I can do and the best God can do.

Prayer puts my unknown future in the hands of an all-knowing God.

Prayer puts my hopeless situation in the hands of an all-powerful God.

Prayer puts my broken life in the hands of an all-forgiving God.

DON’T WANDER – WE ALL NEED COMMUNITY – WE NEED EACH OTHER.