

JAMES 1 TEMPTATION TO SIN... WHO'S FAULT IS IT?

LAST WEEK WE BEGAN THE STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES. JAMES WAS JESUS' HALF BROTHER WHO REJECTED HIM AS THE MESSIAH AT FIRST. ONLY LATER ON AFTER JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND APPEARED TO HIM DID HE CONFESS AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD AND SAVIOR OF MAN. JAMES BECAME A KEY LEADER IN THE JERUSALEM CHURCH BEING CALLED ONE OF THE "PILLARS" ALONG WITH PETER AND JOHN. ALSO KNOWN AS JAMES THE JUST BECAUSE OF HIS DEVOTION TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, HE WAS MARTYRED IN AD 62, ACCORDING TO FIRST CENTURY HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS. THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK WERE JEWISH BELIEVERS THAT WERE SCATTERED POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF STEPHEN'S STONING, BUT MORE LIKELY BECAUSE OF THE PERSECUTION OF KING HEROD AGRIPPA. THIS BOOK IS ALL ABOUT WISE LIVING, BEING CALLED BY MANY THE PROVERBS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. IT IS PRACTICAL. JAMES WROTE WITH A PASSIONIONATE DESIRE FOR HIS READERS TO BE UNCOMPROMISINGLY OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OF GOD. LAST WEEK WE LEARNED IN VERSES 1-8, WHAT IT MEANS TO PERSEVERE AND CONSIDER IT PURE JOY WHEN FACING TRIALS OF MANY KINDS (POIKILOS-VARIOUS, DIFFERENT WAYS). THERE ARE OUTWARD TRIALS AND INWARD TRIALS. EACH ONE REQUIRES A CHOICE BY THE BELIEVER. JAMES SHOWS US THAT WITH EVERY CHOICE, THERE WILL BE A TEMPTATION TO CHOOSE OUR WAY, OR WE CAN BE OBEDIENT TO WHAT GOD HAS SAID AND CHOOSE TO DO IT HIS WAY. JAMES TELLS US IN

VERSES 5-6, AND I'M PARAPHRASING "ASK FOR WISDOM BUT ASK WITH FAITH". IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE YOU WILL GET IT, YOU WON'T

TODAY WE WILL PICK IT UP IN VERSE 9 OF CHAPTER 1
JAMES BRIDGES US FROM TRIALS TO TEMPTATION WITH A TRUTH OF HOW WE SHOULD CONSIDER OURSELVES

James 1:9-11 NIV

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

TO BE HUMBLE IS TO BE EXALTED IN GOD'S EYES
THE RICH SHOULD BE HUMBLE AND KNOW THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE TRASH COMPARED TO THE ETERNAL RICHES OF GOD... THE RICHES OF THIS WORLD ARE PASSING AWAY LIKE THE SUN DESTROYS BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
PEOPLE WHO FOCUS ON MATERIAL THINGS ARE WALKING DEAD

SPURGEON SAID THIS "HUMILITY IS TO MAKE A RIGHT ASSESSMENT OF ONE'S SELF..... DO NOT BE PROUD OF RACE, FACE, OR GRACE"

RICH OR POOR WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT CHRIST

James 1:12 NIV

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

THIS IS A BEATITUDE...BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO

PERSEVERE/HYPOMENO/TO STAND FIRM,ENDURE

TRIAL/PEIRASMOS/TEST,TRIAL,TEMPTATION

TEST/DOKIMOS/GENUINE, APPROVED BY TESTING
REAL FAITH IS TESTED FAITH

IF GOD IS SOVERIEGN, AND HE IS, THEN WHO IS TO BLAME FOR
TEMPTATION IN A TRIAL? MANKIND IS INFAMOUS FOR
BLAMING GOD FOR THEIR CHOICES. IT ALL STARTED IN THE
GARDEN

Genesis 3:8-13 NIV

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

WE WANT TO BLAME OTHERS FOR OUR BAD CHOICES/SIN

James 1:13-14 NIV

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

WHEN TEMPTED, NOT IF

TEMPTED/PEIRAZO/TO TEMP, TO TRAP

GOD’S NATURE IS PERFECT HOLINESS, HE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL NOR TEMPT ANYONE TO SIN

EVIL DESIRE/EPITHYMIA/COVETING, CRAVING, LUST

ENTICED/DELEAZO/SEDUCED, LURED

SATAN AND DEMONS, THE WORLD SYSTEM, OTHER PEOPLE, AND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY BAIT THE HOOK.... OUR LUST AND EVIL DESIRES IS WHAT CAUSES US TO BITE THAT HOOK

1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

GOD ALLOWS PEIROSMOS (TESTS, TRIALS, TEMPTATIONS) IN OUR LIVES TO SHOW US THE CONDITION OF OUR FAITH HE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY MORE THAN BELIEVER CAN HANDLE IS IT REAL FAITH? SMALL FAITH OR GREAT FAITH?

Proverbs 19:3 NIV

³ A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.

WE ARE NOT VICTIMS OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE YET IT IS MANKIND'S FAVORITE PASTIME TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR CHOICES...WE TAKE GOD GIFTS TO US AND PERVERT THEM OUTSIDE OF HIS WILL (PROVISION-MONEY AND FOOD, SEX, REST)

James 1:15 NIV

¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

SIN IS THE RESULT OF A PROCESS NOT A SINGLE ACT

DESIRE/EMOTION/FEELING/WANTING TO BE SATISFIED

DECEPTION/MIND/RATIONALIZATION OF DESIRES
DESIGN/WILL OF MAN/CONCIEVE A PLAN IN THE WOMB OF
THE SOUL TO CARRY OUT THAT DESIRE
DISOBEDIENCE/ BEHAVIOR/THE ACT THAT OCCURS WHEN SIN
IS BORN

James 1:16-18 NIV

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

DON'T BE DECIEVED BY YOUR WICKED DESIRES BUT REMEMBER
EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT COMES FROM THE
FATHER....NOT SOME OR MOST

FATHER OF THE SUN, MOON, STARS, GALAXIES

GOD NEVER CHANGES, SHADOWS SHIFT AS THE LIGHT SHIFTS

WE SEE THREE TRUTHS HERE:

1. SALVATION IS GOD'S CHOICE AND WORK IN HIS PEOPLE
2. SALVATION COMES ABOUT THROUGH A SPIRITUAL REBIRTH (BORN AGAIN)
3. THE WORD OF GOD (THE GOSPEL) IS THE INSTRUMENT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT USES TO BRING ABOUT SPIRITUAL LIFE

