

# November 22/Day 326

- Taking a break from Acts so that we can keep chronological order.
- Though Jesus had two disciples named James, scholars believe the author of this book is the brother of Jesus, sometimes known as James the Just. James did not believe in Jesus while He was here on earth, but became a believer later.
- The book of James was written prior to Acts 15, which records the meeting of the Jerusalem Council (AD 49).

## James 1

### Verse 1

- The book of James is called an epistle. This is just the fancy Greek word for a letter.
- To whom does James address his letter? At the Jerusalem Council, Peter, James, and John made affirmation to the decision to take the gospel to the Gentile people.
- So, he is writing to Jewish believers. Where?
- Unlike Paul's letters, which are written to specific churches, James's letter is written for those who had been dispersed. Can you think of a reason these believers had been dispersed?

### Verses 2-4

- What are believers to consider as joy? Why?
- What is the purpose of endurance?
- Why might James be writing to believers who had been dispersed about enduring trials?

### Verses 5-8

- Based on what we read in the first four verses, how does wisdom fit into this context?
- How must a believer ask (for wisdom)?
- What is a doubter like?
- Some will try to use verse 8 when they want to claim a person is two-faced. This is not what this means and look at the context. This passage is about faith versus doubt in regard to asking for wisdom. Persecuted believers would need wisdom and if they are persecuted. I'm sure you could imagine the doubts they would entertain.

### Verses 9-11

- In the context of enduring, some believers were having their possessions taken from them.

### Verses 12-18

- Who is blessed? Why?
- Does God tempt people?

- When are people tempted? What is the process?
- Where does everything good come from?
- What are we told about God in verse 17? What does this mean?

#### Verses 19-25

- What should every believer be quick to do? Slow to do?
- What is contrasted with anger?
- Is James teaching a works salvation here by saying believers should be doers of the word? Or is he saying there will be fruit as a result of our salvation?
- What do mere hearers do?
- Explain the mirror analogy-

#### Verses 26-27

- Can a person with an uncontrolled tongue truly be a believer?
- How will a believer respond to those in need? To the world's systems and the world's influence?

## James 2

#### Verses 1-7

- What is wrong with showing favoritism?
- What example is given?

#### Verses 8-13

- What is wrong with showing partiality?
- If (when) we sin, how much of the law have we broken?
- What is greater than judgment?
- Do you remember the Old Testament passages we saw about the mercy seat? What was inside the ark of the covenant upon which the mercy seat rested? It was the law. The mercy seat covered the law. The law was locked up in the box and mercy reigned over it. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

#### Verses 14-17

- The faith that can't save him is the faith which is in word only. True faith bears fruit.

#### Verses 18-26

- People say all you have to do is believe in Jesus. But, who, according to verse 19 believes? We know they don't possess salvation.
- What example of works does James give us in Abraham? He was not doing to earn salvation; Abraham was doing in obedience to God.
- What was Abraham called? "Friend" is a covenant word.
- How was Rahab justified?
- If we truly have faith, what else will we have?

## James 3

Verses 1-12

- Why should believers be careful about becoming teachers?
- What do teachers have to do with the instruction about the tongue?
- What two things come from the same mouth?

Verses 13-18

- What will the character of the wise look like?
- What word is teamed up with jealousy here?
- What word is teamed up with ambition?
- What is earthly wisdom like?
- What is heavenly wisdom like?
- How is the righteous seed sown?

## James 4

Verses 1-10

- Did believers in the early church have disagreements?
- What does James tell us about asking?
- What is hostility toward God? Does this mean we can't be friends with unbelievers? No. When the "world" is used in epistles, it is in regard to the systems of the world, how the dog-eat-dog world works.
- What does resisting the devil and submitting to God have to do with this context?
- Why does James want believers to be miserable, mourn and weep? How does this reconcile with the teaching that God would want us to be happy?

Verses 11-12

- This judging is different from the judging we do in Matthew 7. This does not have to do with discerning the fruit of a false prophet or helping a brother remove the splinter from their eye. This is in regard to condemnation when God is the only judge.

Verses 13-17

- What is the expanse of our lives like?
- What is sin according to verse 17?

## James 5

Verses 1-6

- How have these wealthy been behaved?

Verses 7-11

- Have we seen anything about endurance already in this book? What other word is used in this chapter?
- Where is the judge standing?
- Who from the Old Testament is mentioned in this passage?

Verse 12

- Swearing here is not about saying bad words. It means to make an oath or a promise.

Verses 13-18

- What instruction is given here?
- What is the purpose of confessing sins to each other? Would it be wise to consider with whom to share?
- What can the prayer of a righteous man do?
- Why is Elijah mentioned?

Verses 19-20

- What instruction is given in verse 19?
- Is this always a pleasant thing to do? But is it necessary?

See you tomorrow.