



JAMES

“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”



James

- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians
- James 1 includes something of a Summary of much of that which the rest of the letter unpacks

So Far...

- James 1:1-18
 - Perseverance Through Trials
 - Cross borne, crown worn
 - Right Choiceness in Temptation
 - Deal with it!
 - Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving
 - Father of Lights > the father of lies



“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12)

Bad Stuff Out Good Stuff In!

James 1:19-21



James 1

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.



Firstfruits

- ‘that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.’
- Firstfruits either refers to a simple sign of what is to come... Early Christians = just the beginning!
- “The firstfruits were viewed as the best of the harvest, so God is making redeemed human beings the apex of all creation. Here we see another chain: God – word of truth – birth. Desire and the devil lead to death. God, by way of contrast, produces life.” (New Bible Commentary, IVP)



Two Ears, One Mouth

- Quick to listen
 - 2 ears, 2 eyes, 2 nostrils, 2 hands, 2 feet
 - 1 mouth
- Slow to speak
 - Once something is said, it cannot be unsaid
 - It can be edited but not deleted!
 - ‘If you’ve got nothing helpful to say, then say nothing at all!’
 - The power of the tongue



Slow to Anger

- “The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” (Psalm 145:8)
- God’s default setting is grace
- This is the nature we should seek to reflect
- If our default setting is anger then we need to examine ourselves and find out why and pull the cause up at the roots



Human anger Vs Righteous anger

- What makes you angry?
- What makes God angry?
 - Pride
 - Injustice
 - Twisting of truth
 - Hypocrisy (the unmerciful servant)
- Even then He is SLOW to anger



What Makes God Angry?

There are six things the LORD hates,
seven that are detestable to him:

- 1) haughty eyes,
- 2) lying tongue,
- 3) hands that shed innocent blood,
- 4) a heart that devises wicked schemes,
- 5) feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- 6) a false witness who pours out lies
- 7) and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

(Proverbs 6:16-19)



GET RID!

- James uses strong and urgent language
 - ‘moral filth’ and ‘evil’ are prevalent
 - There is plenty of it around if we choose to pursue it
 - Some is blatant and obvious, some is not so
 - Eyes open (lies deceive)
- Put the rubbish out
 - Don’t delay
 - Don’t play around with it
 - Don’t let it contaminate you / your family / your community



Good News

- It can be dealt with
 - In fact, it HAS been dealt with and now its our choice to put it out
- There is grace when truth prevails
- Confess your sin and be healed (James 5:16)
 - We may not know what to do with our rubbish and we don't want everyone looking through our bin bags but the disposal price has been paid so put it out and let the refuse collectors deal with it!



Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In!

- God's design is not just for us to be rid of the bad things from our lives
- He wants us to be filled with the good!
- What do we need to put out with the rubbish?
- What do we need to ask God to give?



Bad Stuff Out...

Psalm 51 – The Example of David

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.



Good Stuff In...

Psalm 51 – The Example of David

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.



God's Gift

- IT IS A GIFT!
- “... humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21)
- Death is earned, but the life of God is a gift
- Accept His Word
 - Written truth and Living Truth



My Cool Box



What Do You Need to Exchange Today?

- The is the really good news
 - Beauty for ashes
 - Joy instead of mourning
 - Glory instead of disgrace
 - Acceptance instead of rejection
 - Peace instead of anxiety
 - Love instead of fear
 - Mercy instead of judgement
 - Light instead of lies
 - Crowns for crosses

