



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

So Far...

- James 1
 - Perseverance Through Trials
 - Right Choiceness in Temptation
 - Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving
 - Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In
 - Reflection Reaction
 - Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith
- James 2
 - Oh Sit Down Next to me
 - Faith Must Work
- James 3
 - Power Steering the Tongue
 - Heavenly Wisdom and the Harbour of the Heart
- James 4
 - But He Gives More Grace: Winning the Battle of the Heart
 - Heart of the Law Abiding
 - A Round Tuit
- James 5
 - Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
 - Be P, Be S, Be T

JAMES 5:7-12

Be P

Be S

Be T

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

Be

- Patient: Wait for Him
- Steadfast: 'May the name of the Lord be praised'
- Trustworthy: A Yes should mean yes, a no should mean no



‘Consider him that waits for a crop of corn; and will not you wait for a crown of glory?’ (Matthew Henry)



JAMES 5:13-20



How Letter

- How do we end a letter
 - In our culture we will identify ourselves as the writer and precede this with the 'correct' ending to correspond with who we have addressed the letter to at the beginning
 - Yours... Faithfully / Sincerely / 'In Him' / Truly
- What is the most important part of a letter?
- If you received a letter many pages long, but only had a moment to read it, which sections would you read?
 - I suggest it should be the first and the last paragraph



James 5:13-20

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let them pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let them sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise them up. And if they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let them know that whoever brings back a sinner from their wandering will save their soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



Landing His Letter

- James' letter is a journey of wisdom and instruction toward healthy faith-filled living and God centred community
- At the beginning he tells the reader that if anyone lacks wisdom they should ASK GOD but more acutely; that they should do so with FAITH
- As He concludes, he takes us back to the source of our joys and the answer to all our suffering



Is anyone among you suffering?

The original pathos of one who is doing “badly” (kakos) refers not only to the “suffering” of persecution, but to anything that can contribute to a negative life experience, such as sorrow, depression, ill health, bad family or social situation, economic exigencies. Use your imagination.



Yes



Take it to God

(Pray)



Is anyone among you cheerful?

The contrasting image speaks of a thymos that has to do with the inner self or passion. So an inner self that is doing well (eu) has to do more with a holistic sense of the self rather than to just being “cheerful.”



Yes



Take it to God

(Praise)



Is anyone among you
sick?



Yes



Take it to God



Call the Elders

- The word for ‘elders’ (presbuteros) can refer to age/maturity or to those appointed to a certain position
 - Call upon and be a part of your Christian community and specifically those who will inspire faith and surround you with faith
 - This is not a ‘prescription’ or a magic formula!
 - Have faith and humility to call for prayer
 - Surround yourself with faith and your Christian community
- Its not the ‘elders’ that James is telling the sick to rely upon, but rather the ‘prayer of faith’ in a faithful God



Anoint With Oil

- For its lubricative qualities?
- For medicinal purposes?
- For its historical ritualistic significance?



Anoint With Oil

- Anointing in the NT is typically associated with the presence and work of the Holy Spirit
- So as well as the 'prayer of faith' in a faithful God - we are to rely upon the work of the Holy Spirit
- Anointing with oil is not a 'healing potion' - rather is a symbolic representation of the Holy Spirit for FAITH that He is present and at work in us - not just to minister our last rights!
- The only specific instruction is that it should be done in the name of The Lord



In The Name of The Lord

- The 'name' biblically is not just a word, but is the essence of the person
- A reminder who is our healer and is the ultimate answer to our pain and suffering
- We have been given authority in His name
- There IS power in the name of Jesus!



Prayer of Faith

- To raise the sick up AND for their forgiveness - God is concerned with the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the whole person - Faith
- Confess to one another and pray for one another and be healed
 - Confession to God brings forgiveness
 - Confession to one another can bring healing and freedom
 - Find that person you can confess to and pray with
 - Be healed physically, emotionally, spiritually



The Righteous Person

- Right Choice-ness
- The ultimate right choice is to respond to the love of God in Christ Jesus
- We have been called His righteousness
- It because of His right-choice that we now make our right-choices



He is Faithful

So we can be Faith-Full



E.G. Elijah

- Elijah was righteous - He knew God's heart and sought (and submitted to) God's will
- He was faith-full - believing God would hear and answer his prayer
- He knew God had authority over creation, even the weather
 - why don't we always have the same?
- What he prayed for was in God's plan - we have to live with the mystery of His yeses and noes!



Touchdown!

- James' very last encouragement/instruction
- Bring the wanderer home
 - God's heart is made clear
- A letter full of warning, instruction and wisdom - the final word is about grace
- We can play a part in the saving of a soul
 - For this life and the eternal



What Greater Crown?

- Than to save one's soul from death and destruction?
 - We have a God who 'leaves the ninety nine'
- Does this cover a multitude of their sin? Or our own? Or both?
 - Ez 3:21 "But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul."
 - 1Tim 4:16 "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."



Cover Over a Multitude of Sins

- What covers over a multitude of sins?
- Love
- And that is our purpose
- James has given us a clear journey in some of what it meant to 'Love God and Love People'
- (P.S. Don't be a wanderer!)



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 - Your Faith - Fully



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YOURS FAITH-FULLY