

JAMES LESSON 9
CHAPTER 5: 1 – 9
REAL FAITH SEEKS JUSTICE

KEY VERSE: JAMES 5: 7 – 8

A. INTRODUCTION

a. THE OPENING VERSES OF THIS SECTION ADDRESSES THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS. IN A WAY, THE SECOND COMING HAS BEEN IN THE BACKGROUND OF MUCH OF WHAT JAMES HAS SAID THROUGHOUT HIS EPISTLE.

***JAMES 1: 9 – 11 THE TEMPORAL NATURE OF RICHES**

***JAMES 2: 12 – 13; 4: 7 – 12, 14 – JAMES WORDS CONCERNING JUDGEMENT, ASSUME THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS**

***JAMES 1: 12 – END TIME REWARDS**

b. WE SEE JAMES IS IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE REST OF THE N.T. WHICH TEACHES ESCHATOLOGY (THE STUDY OF THE END OF TIMES AND THE SECOND COMING) CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ETHICS (PERSONAL BEHAVIOR).

c. THE MESSAGE OF JAMES IS THAT EACH OF US WILL GIVE ACCOUNT OF OUR LIVES AT THE SECOND COMING, SO WE NEED TO LIVE RIGHT IN THE PRESENT

d. JAMES IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH HIS LORD AND HALF – BROTHER, JESUS

***MATTHEW 25: 1 – 13 PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS**

***MATTHEW 25: 14 – 30 NEED TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY IN THE PRESENT; BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHEN WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE ACCOUNT.**

***JAMES 1: 10 -11 JAMES 2: 1 – 10; JAMES 4: 13 – 16 – THE THEME OF THE RICH AND THE POOR!**

***JAMES 1: 10 – 11; 4: 13 – 16 WORLDLY MATERIALISM**

***JAMES 2: 1 – 5, 8 – 9 FAVORITISM TOWARD THE RICH**

*** JAMES 2: 6 – 7 ECONOMIC OPPRESSION OF THE POOR**

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9 THE RICH TYRANNIZING THE POOR**

e. TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. MANY OF THE ECONOMIC PROTECTIONS THAT WE ENJOY TODAY WERE NONRESISTENT IN THE FIRST – CENTURY WORLD – NO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NO SOCIAL SECURITY.

***MATTHEW 20: 1 – 16 NONSKILLED WORKERS WERE AT THE MERCY OF THE RICH**

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9 THIS IS WHY JAMES COMES DOWN SO HARD ON THOSE WHO CHEAT & OPPRESS THE POOR**

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9 ANOTHER HOPE FOR JUSTICE: JUDGEMENT DAY! THIS IS THE SECOND POINT TO KEEP IN MIND**

***JAMES HOPE OF THE SECOND COMING INCLUDES A STRONG ELEMENT OF JUSTICE – ALL THINGS DONE WRONG IN THIS WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE INJUSTICE DONE TO THE POOR, WHO COULD NOT DEFEND THEMSELVES, - ALL THIS SINS OF FINANCE, SO TO SPEAK WILL BE JUDGED.**

***THIS EXPLAINS JAMES HARSH TONE IN THIS SECTION**

***JAMES HAS A PASSION FOR FAIRNESS, A PASSION THAT SEEKS JUSTICE EACH AND EVERY DAY TILL THE SECOND COMING**

***IF WE WOULD ONLY DO THE RIGHT THING**

***PSALMS 68: 5 THIS IS THE HEART OF GOD**

***HE IS A DEFENDER OF THOSE WITHOUT DEFENSE. HE IS THE JUDGE OF ALL WHO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK**

***ISAIAH 3: 14 – 15**

***PRAY!**

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9**

B. DISCOVER

a. THINGS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT JAMES:

1. UNDERSTANDING THE TONE OF JAMES

2. HIS PROPHETIC VOICE PASSIONATE ABOUT JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

3. HIS CONFRONTATIONAL STYLE IS NOT MEANT TO HARM BUT TO HEAL

C. DISCERN

a. THE CHALLENGING PORTION OF JAMES CALLS FOR A SPECIAL SEASON OF PRAYER. HIS HARD - HITTING MESSAGE HAS THE GOODNESS OF DIVINE JUDGEMENT IN SIGHT

b. GODS JUDGEMENT IS GOOD, BECAUSE IT BALANCES THE BOOKS. ALL THE EVIL AND CRUELTY THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THIS LIFE WOULD GO UNACCOUNTED FOR. ALL THAT HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED, ROBBED OF JUSTICE WOULD REMAIN VICTIMIZED FOR ETERNITY.

***JAMES SAYS THIS IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, FOR GOD HAS HEARD THE CRIES OF THE OPPRESSED**

c. MUCH OF WHAT JAMES SAYS SOUNDS LIKE THE PROPHET MICAH

JAMES 5: 1

MICAH 1: 10, 11

MICAH 6: 8

***JUSTICE, MERCY, HUMILITY – ENCAPULATE THE BURDEN OF JAMES IN CHAPTER 5**

***THE MOTH – EATEN CLOTHING SPOKEN OF IN JAMES 5: 2 SPELLS THE DOOM OF THE FINE CLOTH MENTION IN JAMES 2: 2 – 3**

***ACTS 12: 21 – 23 – IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, SILVER AND GOLD THREAD WOULD OFTEN BE WOVEN INTO CLOTHING TO SHOW WEALTH AND SOCIAL STATUS AT TIMES, THIS METAL WOULD CORRODE AND RUIN FANCY APPAREL.**

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9 JAMES HAS A COURTROOM SCENE IN MIND**

D. DENOTE:

a. THE WORDS OF JAMES CAN BE PENETRATING. HE DOES NOT “PULL ANY PUNCHES” WHEN CONFRONTING THE INJUSTICE AGAINST THE POOR. IT’S NOT LIKELY THAT ANY TRUE BELIEVERS CAN FULLY IDENTIFY WITH WHAT JAMES SAYS IN 5: 1 -9

1. DENY MYSELF SOME MATERIAL PLEASURE AND REPLACE IT WITH A GIFT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED.

2. LOOK FOR AT LEAST ONE, CONCRETE SITUATION WHERE I CAN BE A CLEAR VOICE FOR JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

3. ALLEVIATE, IN REAL TERMS, THE PAIN OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL

***JAMES 5: 1 – 9 DISCIPLE OTHERS – WE NEED TO BE READY TO STAND FOR WHAT'S RIGHT – REGARDLESS OF THE COST**

NEXT WEEK

LESSON 10

JAMES 5: 10 – 20

REAL FAITH BELIEVERS IN PRAYER