

READ JAMES 1:1-12 “PRACTICALLY SPEAKING...”

1.A. Even though biblical scholars have debated the authorship of the book of James, most agree that a man historically called James the Just wrote the book. From the following verses what can we learn about James? See Mark 6:1-3, John 7:5, and Acts 1:12-14.

1.B. What happened to change James’ heart and attitude toward Jesus? See 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Who else saw Jesus at this time?

1.C. What other tidbits can we glean about James in Acts 15:1-2 and 12-21 with Galatians 2:1, 9-10?

1.D. James does not refer to himself as Mary’s son or Jesus’ brother, nor does he call attention to his position in the Jerusalem church. In humility, how does he describe himself in James 1:1?

1.E. **OPTIONAL STUDY:** To name a few, who else has been described in this manner? See Genesis 26:24, Exodus 14:31, Numbers 14:24, Acts 3:13, Philippians 1:1, and Colossians 4:12. Can you think of any other biblical examples that were described likewise?

1.F. To whom does James address his letter in verse 1? Also see James 2:1. Who do you think these people were and why might they be living outside of Jerusalem?

- 1.G. Today if you were to write a letter, how would you describe yourself? Do you think of yourself as God's servant? What do you think it means to be His servant?
- 2.A. As we move further into the letter, in verse 2 how does James encourage us to face trials? According to verses 3-4 why are we to exhibit this attitude? Also see Romans 5:3-5 and 1 Peter 1:6-7.
- 2.B. What types of difficulties and trials have you encountered? Was your faith tested? How were you able to persevere?
- 2.C. In James 1:12 what blessing does God promise to those who persevere and remain true to their faith? Also look at Revelation 2:9-10.
- 2.D. What other "crowns" are found in Scripture according to 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, 2 Timothy 4:8, and 1 Peter 5:1-4? What will we do with our crowns in Revelation 4:9-11?

- 3.A. An attitude of joy during trials is impossible without God's wisdom. How can we obtain wisdom when we need it in James 1:5-6a? Also see Proverbs 2:3-6.
- 3.B. God's wisdom knows no boundaries or limitations (Romans 11:33). His wisdom is available to us, but we must ask believing He can and will give in abundance. To what does James compare the doubting man in verse 6b? What is the doubtful one like in verse 8? How might this person be "unstable" in his life?
- 4.A. Endurance through trials requires attitudes of joy (verse 2), submission (verse 3), faith (verse 6), and humility (verse 9). What two types of people does James address in verses 9-11? Explain these verses in your own words.
- 4.B. Humility pleases God. Define the word humble. How can we develop a humble spirit?