

Jewels From James Part Two

James 1:9-20

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“(9) The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. (10) But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. (11) For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business. (12) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (13) When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (14) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (16) Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (18) He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.(19) My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [20] for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”

Let's Go Jewel Hunting - Let's read 9 -10 again

“(9) The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. (10) But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.”

The brother in “humble circumstances” can be glad in his high standing spiritually

The one who is rich can be glad for his human frailty (knowing that he has “eternal glory” in Christ 2 Corinthians 4:17)

Social prominence passes away, wealth withers in the hot sun and fame will fade.

‘Hope in the eternal is evidence of believing and authentic faith (remember the questions of last week)

Verse 12 says:

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

The reward for the Christian who stands up under trial is the crown of life. According to the commentaries I read, this promised life is probably here and now – the abundant life that Jesus promised in John 1:10. Notice this is promised to those who love God. Love for God enables believers who endure trials to rest confidently in Him.

One great example comes to mind: Job

Verse 13 and 14 reveal the source of temptation

God tempts no one! He often tests but He never tempts.

“Our enemy, crafty and clever and experienced as he is knows which lure best attracts each one of us. Our unique inner “Itch” longs to be satisfied by that particular outer “Scratch.”

“And unless we draw on the all-conquering power of Jesus Christ, we'll yield. We'll take the bait, and we'll suffer the horrible consequences.” (Swindoll)

Remember The Dog Story

Look at the progression in vs 14-15

“(14) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

Stairs Illustration

Verse 17 reminds us that:

Every good and perfect gift comes from God who: **Never Changes**

Verses 18 & 19 are worth focusing on for a few minutes:

James tells his readers, “Take note of this: (and a threefold commandment follows)

“Be quick to listen”

“Be slow to speak”

“Be slow to become angry”

“In an argument or even a discussion, the one who listens more than he talks, is usually the one who is slow to anger. (see James 3:1-12)

Anger fails to yield the righteous life that God desires, the goal to which this letter is committed

Conclusion

Let’s go back to the questions from last week:

“James continually wants to know if your life is real.”

“He wants to know if your walk matches your talk, if your faith is genuine.”

“Is your faith something I can count on?”

“Is your faith expressing itself in action?”

Next Week: James 1:21-27