

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
 - Causes of Temptations 4:1-6
 - Overcoming 4:7-10
 - **Judging and Presumption 4:11-17**
 - Temptations of Hording 5:1-6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

A quick reminder of where we are...

- Times of testing require God's help... (5,6)
 - God acts with Scripture, Spirit and Grace
 - Humble receive help, proud get opposed
- 7-10 contains 10 aorist imperative verbs:
 - These gave us a response to God's working
 - Frees us from apathy, insincerity, arrogance
 - Also sets us apart for God's blessing/guidance
 - THE CHOICE IS OURS!!!
 - James moves to 2 problems of ATTITUDE...

1. Judgemental attitudes (11,12)

- *katalaleo* – criticize, judge, backbite, gossip, censor, condemn, and grumble - pres. act. (3x)
 - This is a harsh, unforgiving attitude (Matt 7:1ff) Ja 2:8
- 1) Criticism boosts our own self-image. Pointing out someone else's failure and tearing him down makes us seem a little bit better, at least in our own eyes. It adds to our own pride, ego, & self-image.
- 2) Criticism is simply enjoyed. There is a tendency in human nature to take pleasure in hearing & sharing bad news about others.
- 3) Criticism makes us feel that our own lives (morality and behavior) are better than the person who failed.
- 4) Criticism helps us justify the decisions we have made and the things we have done throughout our lives. We rationalize our decisions and acts by pointing out the failure of others.
- 5) Criticism is an outlet for hurt and revenge.

Look to the Law Giver (12)

- God is much better at this than we are!
 - Able to save and destroy (Mt 10:28)
 - Sees the whole picture
 - Has no sinful issues to cover up
 - read Ro 14:1-12
 - We don't need judges, we need FAMILY!
- The damage of Judgmentalism...
 - Separates the church for easy pickings...
 - Removes God's Spirit and power
 - Leads to legalistic complexes...

2. Presumptuous attitudes (13-17)

- We shall go, we shall make profit!
 - Why is this such an issue? Isn't planning good?
 - Review/remember the 10 aorist imperatives!
 - Self-Sufficiency = planning without God
 - “you who say” – a certain group of people...
 - Is tomorrow in our own power? Effort? Talent? Work?
 - How many times does leaving God out of our plans make for a BIG MISTAKE???
 - Joshua, David, Solomon, Hezekiah (2Ki 20:12ff)
 - Know anyone else???

Problems of Self-sufficient attitudes

- Today, tomorrow, town, a year, make profit?
 - Is any of this in our realm of ability without God?
 - Pr 27:1; Mt 6:19-20, 33; Mk 4:18,19; 1Ti 6:7
- Uncertainty of tomorrow (14) vapor/mist (1x)!
 - Even 1 hour from now is unknown to us & uncertain
 - Nothing is guaranteed or sure.. Recent events!
- If the Lord wills... (15)
 - Is He Lord? Really?? (Act 18:21; 1Co 4:19; 16:7)
 - Is it just language or attitude???
 - Pr 3:6; Ps 143:10; Eph 6:6

The real issue-

- *alazoneia* – empty boasting, braggart, insolent and empty assurance (2x – 1Jo 2:16!)
 - Pretentious attitude – Lk 12:16-21
 - Claiming credit...
- *kauchesis* – act of glorying, boasting; good/bad
 - Depends on what is being gloried in... 1Th 2:19
- All of this kind is evil! *poneros*, wicked, diseased
- If you **know** is it right/good and don't do it...
 - How much does this cover???