

A STUDY OF JAMES (4)

In what do you glory?

James 1:9-11

The Book of James – 1:1-8

- Continuing our study of James, in our last lesson we addressed dealing with trials with patience and wisdom.
- Our text seems to be inserted in the midst of dealing with this subject (vs. 12 begins a study of temptations).
- How is it related to the current theme of James? What is his point? That will be our study tonight.

Let the lowly brother glory (vs. 9)

- Keep this in context – dealing with trials & suffering.
- These verses serve as an example of trials we might face based upon our status in life – namely, how do we view ourselves? What is the proper disposition we need?

Let the lowly brother glory (vs. 9)

- This is likely a reference to one materially poor.
- This was likely the typical first century Christian (and has been such through much of history).
- The poor man might face many challenges (Pulpit Commentary):
 - It tries his body with exhausting labor – just to provide
 - It tries his mind by placing obstacles in the way of acquiring knowledge
 - It tries his heart by limiting his enjoyment, including giving
 - It tries his temper, wearing out his patience and possibly causing him to fret or be sarcastic (e.g., envy).

Let the lowly brother glory (vs. 9)

- Before God, he has something of which to glory
- *God takes note of the poor* -
 - **James 2:5** – He has chosen the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
- No partiality with Him – **Ephesians 6:9, Acts 10:34-35, Galatians 3:28**
- Jesus went to and helped the poor – **Matthew 11:5, cf. Luke 4:17-18 (Isaiah 61:1-2)**.
He was criticized for this.

Let the lowly brother glory (vs. 9)

- Before God, he has something of which to glory
- *His name is written in heaven-*
 - **James 2:5** – He has chosen the poor to be ... heirs of the kingdom
- The impoverished in this life can take hope in the eternal reward that awaits them – **1 Corinthians 7:21-22, Revelation 2:8-9, cf. Luke 16:19-22**
- Materially he may not face some of the same temptations as the rich man.

But the rich in his humiliation (vs. 10-11)

- Wealth is often addressed in scripture
 - Matthew 19:23-26** – after the rich, young ruler
 - Matthew 6:24** – where is your treasure?
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19**
- The book of James - **2:1-10, 14-18, 5:1-6, etc.**
- **Psalms 49:6-9**
- **Proverbs 11:28**, *He who trusts in riches will fall,
But the righteous will flourish like foliage.*

But the rich in his humiliation (vs. 10-11)

- Being wealthy is not sinful, BUT it presents greater worldly challenges.
- Was James describing believers, the worldly or both?
- Wealth can be powerful blessing for the cause of Christ.
- But it poses a challenge to faithfulness. The wealthy tend to focus and rely on their material prosperity.
- Too many do not know how to live a simple lifestyle with contentment and generosity.
- A greater tendency toward worldliness
- It is the EXCEPTION that puts God first!

But the rich in his humiliation (vs. 10-11)

- Glory in his humiliation
- “Glory” is implied as the antithesis of vs. 9
- Humility is a fundamental quality of our faith.
Greatly needed among the wealthy.

Matthew 5:3

Jeremiah 9:23-24 – let the rich man glory in this...

Luke 12:16-21 – parable of the rich fool

As the flower of the field(vs. 10-11)

- Wealth and worldly possessions are temporal
- It is like a flower that dies and grass that withers
- **Isaiah 40:5-8**
1 Peter 1:23-24 – the word endures forever
Matthew 6:27-30 – if God can provide for flowers and grass, He can provide for us.

As the flower of the field(vs. 10-11)

- So the rich man will also fade away in his pursuits
- **Matthew 6:19** – where is your treasure?
- **Ecclesiastes 5:12-16** – you cannot take it with you!
- **1 Timothy 6:7** – we brought nothing into this world

Some lessons to consider (vs. 9-11)

We all need to view ourselves properly

- **Romans 12:3** – Not to think too highly
- NOTE: The glorying of the poor is also with humility. It is not about self-exaltation or thinking himself better than the rich man.
- **1 Peter 5:6** – humility is a universal need
- **Romans 3:23** – we are all sinners.
- God's grace is our only hope –
cf. Matthew 19:26

Some lessons to consider (vs. 9-11)

Contentment is always the answer

- **Proverbs 30:7-9** – give me enough!
- **Philippians 4:11** – I know how to be content
- **Hebrews 13:5** – be content with what you have
- Being content REGARDLESS of what you have is sometimes a challenge, but it keeps us in a proper standing with our Lord & God.

Some lessons to consider (vs. 9-11)

Whatever state you find yourself in...

- Use it to the glory of God.
- We are ALL different with unique abilities, talents and needs. Use what you have for His glory.
- **1 Corinthians 10:31** – do all to the glory of God.
- **Colossians 3:17**
- **Ephesians 4:16** – every part (of the body) does its share

Some lessons to consider (vs. 9-11)

Christ is the great equalizer

- He died for all – **Romans 5:6-8,**
2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- Jesus does NOT judge the way man does. He is just and righteous and fair!
- **Galatians 3:27-29** – your physical status does not matter to Him!

You are who you are!
And that will come with trials &
temptations!

Is Jesus really your King?

Let us pray!