

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Background - James the Man

The book of James was written by the half-brother of Jesus. You can learn about James the person from the following New Testament passages: Mk 3:20-21 | Lk 8:19-21 Mt 13:55 | Jn 7:3-5 1Cor 15:3-8 | Acts 1:12-14; 12:6-17; 15:6-21; 21:15-19

What do you observe about James' life and trajectory as a disciple of Jesus from these passages?

Read James Chapter 1

What stands out to you? What do you observe?
Try subdividing the chapter, how would you split it up?
What themes, patterns, and repetition do you see?
What questions arise from the text?
What challenges you? What encourages you?

Trials & Temptations (vs 2-4 & 12-15)

How would you summarize James on this theme? How does it compare to Jesus' teaching (Mt 5:10-12; 6:9-13; 24:4-13)?

True & False Wisdom (vs 5-8 & 16-25)

What is James teaching here? How does it echo what Jesus taught? (Mt 7:7-23; Lk 11:2-13)

Wealth & Poverty (vs 9-11 & 26-27)

What does James teach about riches, money, possessions, and poverty? Now compare it to some of Jesus' own teachings (Lk 6:20-26; Mt 6:19-24; 25:31-46)

Hearing & Doing

Compare James 1:22-27 with Mat 7:24-27. What is the difference between hearing only, and hearing & doing? Why is doing necessary?

Practice It

Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to start living out James' teaching? How will you take practical steps of obedience?

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