

JAMES

Anger, Doing, Religion



A word cloud featuring various religious and biblical terms. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some larger than others. The colors include shades of blue, green, purple, yellow, and red. The words are oriented in different directions, some horizontal and some vertical.

brothers
faith
God
one
sisters
like
person
wisdom
deeds
world
take
mercy
coming
body
ask
know
sin
keep
without
clothes
way
comes
whole
among
Lord
evil
fire
anyone
law
show
poor
rich
even
listen
word
go
gives
away
save
good
come

SUMMARY of LAST WEEK

James 1:16-18

- James 1:16-18 focuses on reinforcing the idea that
 - God may use trials and testing to perfect our faith
 - God never tempts us to do evil; that's Satan's role
 - Every good and perfect gift comes from God, the light of the world; Darkness and evil come from Satan

SUMMARY of LAST WEEK

James 1:9-11 and 5:1-6

- When considering the rich, whether its us or others:
 - Remember who we are in Christ and what we have in Him now and in the future
 - Remember the temporal nature of earthly riches now and in the future
 - Remember that wealth and power cannot stand against the judgment of God

SUMMARY of LAST WEEK

James 5:1-6

- Improper use of wealth includes
 - Hoarding
 - Self-indulgence
 - Oppression of others
 - Withholding what is due to others

THIS WEEK

James 1:19-27

- Anger
- Doing
- Religion

Anger, Doing, and Religion

READ James 1:19-27

ANGER, DOING, and RELIGION

Context

- Very brief greeting and James gets right to issue of perseverance under trials & testing
- Then takes the time to clarify
 - God will give us wisdom
 - God's testing is to perfect and mature us
 - God never tempts us to do entice us to do evil
- 1:16-18 has just emphasized the deception of the latter point

ANGER, DOING, and RELIGION

Context

- In 1:9-11 James has already addressed one area his readers are dealing with--wealth & poverty
- Now he proceeds to deal with three more topics
 - All related to:
 - A proper response to testing & trials
 - Necessity to live lives of integrity

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- How does James tie together listening, speaking, anger and righteousness in this passage?
 - We should be
 - Quick to listen
 - Slow to speak
 - Slow to become angry
 - Because human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- Why does James refer to “human” anger in v 20?
 - Not told
 - But likely because
 - God is absolutely perfect and righteous yet He is described numerous times in scripture as being angry

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- Why does James refer to “human” anger in v 20?
 - Not told
 - But likely because
 - God is absolutely perfect and righteous yet He is described numerous times in scripture as being angry

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- In v 21 what are the two tasks that James assigns which he says, “...can save you.”?
 - “...get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent”
 - “...and humbly accept the word planted in you, ...”

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- Note that vs 21 begins with “Therefore” which suggests a relationship between what follows and what preceded
- The righteousness which God desires doesn’t come from human anger but from
 - getting rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accepting the word planted in you, which can save you
- I think James could be a good Free Methodist with an emphasis on demonstrating our faith by holy living

ANGER

James 1:19-21

- And as is often the case James is alluding to teachings of Jesus
 - Matthew 5:21-26 on the subject of murder and anger

DOING

James 1:22-25

- How do we deceive ourselves in v 22?
 - Here it is again. We just saw a warning about self-deception in v 18. It was a problem for James' original readers. It's a problem for us today.
 - Here the deception is in listening to the word without doing what it says.

DOING

James 1:22-25

- What does James use for an analogy to listening to the word without doing what it says?
- Like
 - Looking in the mirror
 - And immediately forgetting what you look like

DOING

James 1:22-25

- What is “the perfect law that gives freedom” in v24?
 - My thoughts
 - Contrast with
 - Slavery to sin
 - Frustration and Impossibility of pleasing God by obedience to OT Law

DOING

James 1:22-25

- My thoughts CONTINUED
 - Includes
 - Desire to live righteously because God has declared me righteous
 - Not bound by the requirements of the Law but desiring to be a person of integrity
 - One who reads/hears in scripture what God desires and as a normal response does what it says

DOING

James 1:22-25

- My thoughts CONTINUED
 - Includes
 - Jesus' sums up the Law (Matt 22:37-40)
 - Love God. Love People.

DOING

James 1:22-25

- Again James alludes to a principal teaching of Jesus:
 - Matthew 7:24-27
 - “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

DOING

James 1:22-25

- What practice leads to blessing?
 - Looking intently into the perfect law that gives freedom
 - And continuing in it
 - Not forgetting what they have heard
 - But doing it

RELIGION

James 1:26-27

- What does James give as an example of a worthless religion in v 26?
 - Calls it self-deception to consider oneself religious but
 - Don't keep a tight reign on their tongues (lots more to come on this in Ch 3)

RELIGION

James 1:26-27

- How does James describe a pure and faultless religion in v 27?
 - “... to look after orphans and widows in their distress
 - and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (we will hear much more about this in Ch 4)

RELIGION

James 1:26-27

- Why does James link care of widows and orphans with pure and faultless religion?
 - Perhaps:
 - Care of widows and orphans frequently put forth as a responsibility of a righteous person in scripture
 - Speaking to lack of integrity on those who claim to be religious but fail to do the obvious thing in loving our neighbors as ourselves

SUMMARY

James 1:19-27



QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS

NEXT WEEK

Favoritism -- James 2:1-13

- As usual
 - Context
 - Parallels with Jesus' teaching, esp. Sermon on Mount
 - Hypocrisy vs. Integrity

NEXT WEEK

Favoritism -- James 2:1-13

- How does showing favoritism make you a judge with evil thoughts? 2:4
- Does James suggest that Godly believers are to be found among the poor rather than the rich? 2:5-7
- What is meant by “the royal law” in 2:8?
- Do you agree that showing favoritism makes you the same kind of lawbreaker as a murderer or adulterer? 2:9-11

NEXT WEEK

Favoritism -- James 2:1-13

- What is meant by being judged by the law that gives freedom? 2:12
- How would that affect how we speak and act? 2:12
- What does it mean, “mercy triumphs over judgment?” 2:13