

## Book of James Study 2

Review...The Parallels of James to the Sermon on the Mount

### Joy in the midst of trials

**Matt 5:10-12** Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven!

**Luke 6:22, 23** Blessed are you when people hate you, avoid you, insult you, and slander you because you are committed to the Son of Man. Rejoice then, and be very happy! You have a great reward in heaven. That’s the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

Cultivating to develop and improve faith and works growth cultivating like the growth of a plant or a crop after it is cultivated by labor and attention.



Last week... **A Proper Attitude toward Trials**

The process was that Trials = Perseverance = Maturity

**And we, out of all God’s creation, became his prized possession.**

### Listening and Doing...The Real McCoy...Real religion

**James 1:20—21** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.



**Christian Ethics...First, real religion controls the tongue.**

1. Losing control affects our whole being. Gaining control of one's anger can provide a key to the maturing expression of more positive virtues in one's character.
2. God does not seek righteous knowledge. He seeks righteous lives.
3. Speech reveals true character. Words can quickly destroy any Christian witness if they are not Christ like.
4. James 1:26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.
5. We are going to look at the tongue again in Chapter 3

**Illustration** One of the stories out of the great Welsh revival in Britain in the early 1900's would be funny if wasn't so true. It is said that hundreds of coal miners were so converted to Christ that it affected the production of the mines. The miners worked just as hard if not harder after they became Christians. That wasn't the problem. The problem was that the profanity of so many miners was so cleaned up that their mules didn't recognize them anymore and refused to pull the coal wagons.

**True religion puts a muffler on the mouth**



**Salvation and Obedience...Second, real religion hears and does Gods Word**

James 1:22—26 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

1. God's Word requires listeners to be doers.
2. Receive the Word of God with meekness and respond to the Word of God with action.
3. Remember what God's Word has revealed to you and don't walk away and forget.

## **The mirror Illustration**

**What image do you see when you look in a mirror? All of us look at life in slightly different ways.**



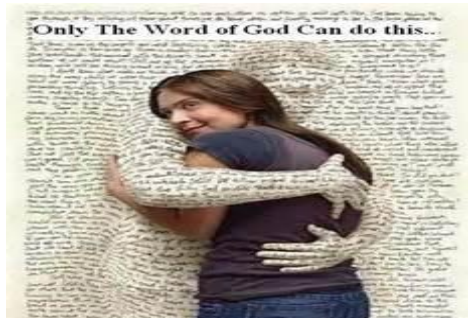
**We each see ourselves differently because we are seeing a reflection of who we think we are...**



**What kind of mirror are we looking into? Maybe we look into a very tiny mirror. Or have you ever been in a house of mirrors at a fair or carnival? Some of the mirrors make you look like you are much taller than you really are. Or another mirror you shorter than you rally are.**

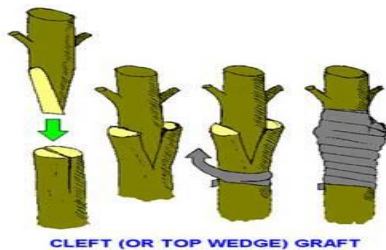


**The only perfect mirror is the Word of God.** We must be doers of the word and not be just hears. For if you listen to the word and don't obey. It is like glancing at your face in a mirror. And going away and immediately forgets what you were like."



**GOD'S MIRROR CAN MAKE US BEAUTIFUL on the inside!**

**Engrafted Word...Third, Real religion receives Gods Word**



**A bud, shoot, of a plant inserted in a groove, or slit, in a stem or stock of another plant in which it continues to grow.**

**King James says engrafted Word** when you receive that Word with meekness, it becomes grafted to you. Actually, you become grafted to God's Word. And when that happens, **you will produce a new kind of fruit.**

**Blessed To Be A Blessing...Forth, real religion is the Real McCoy**

**James 1:27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

James defines pure religion in terms of one's ability: (1) to control his tongue; (2) to perform ministry to those in need, i.e., to orphans and widows; and (3) to strive after and achieve moral purity. This is not intended to describe the full essence of the Christian faith. Indeed James will go on to address many other Christian virtues

This brings us to Chapter 2 of James and he continues on about how to treat people

## **A Warning against Prejudice**

### **1. Introduction**

**James 2:1** My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

### **2. Treat people in light of man's motives**

**James 2:2—4** For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

Mans motive look on the outside and God looks on the heart...We judge the book by its cover



The symbol for Justice is always a blindfolded lady holding scales in her hand. Unable to see anyone because of the blindfold she is able to serve the cause of justice impartially.

We need to move outside of our favoritism... Faith and favoritism don't mix.

### **3. Treat people in light of God's purposes**

**James 2:5—7** Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

We need to choose as God chooses...poor but rich in faith...Jesus spoke of those who inherit the Kingdom of God... **Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

I love the thought of the NOBEL Name of Jesus... Or the Gracious name

### **4. Treat people in light of Jesus' commandments**

**James 2:8—11** Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you favor some

people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.

We are called to fulfill the Royal Law of Christ... "Love your neighbor as yourself." The Royal law of Christ is Love... But if you show favor of one person over another person... you sin and in sinning you break the law and to break one law is to break all laws.

God wants us to acceptance all people... Acceptance means you **value** others just as they are.

#### **5. Treat people in light of God's mercy**

James 2:12—14 So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you. Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead. What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

**True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts.**

Jesus spoke of how you measure it out is how it will be measured back to you... You do not show mercy then you will not receive mercy...



Charlotte Elliott

Years ago a young soloist thrilled a London audience with her musical skills. After the concert a young preacher made his way through the admiring crowd and when he gained her attention said, "Young lady, when you were singing, I thought how tremendously the cause of Christ would be benefited if you would dedicate yourself and your talents to the Lord. But, you are just as much a sinner as the worst drunkard in the street, or any harlot on Scarlet Street. But", he added, "the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, will cleanse you from all sin if you will come to Him." Shocked, she said, "You are very insulting, sir," and started to walk away. He said, "Lady, I did not mean any offense, but I pray that the Spirit of God will convict you." That night she could not sleep. At two o'clock in the morning Charlotte Elliott knelt at the side of her bed and received Christ as Savior.

While sitting there she wrote these favorite words:  
Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!  
Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

### **MERCY RECEIVED BECOMES MERCY GIVEN**

That is the basis on which Christ received you. How will you receive others?  
Will you allow mercy to triumph over judgment?

This is why we need to study the Bible...The Bible is Gods Mind...Jesus was Gods mind in His Son...So let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus... but the response is not just to know it, but to do it.

**Cultivating** to develop and improve faith and works growth in becoming not only a hearer but a doer of God's Word in how we Treat People.

**Question...Who is that person that might be the recipient of love and mercy from you this week, instead of discrimination? Be a Doer of God's Word in how you treat people.**