



FIVE DAYS IN JAMES

James was Jesus' brother, and he still believed Jesus was God's son.

Imagine what kind of faith that took, to believe that your own brother was actually a divine being: fully God, yet fully human. We see this faith reflected in the book of James, but from a very practical angle. Read through James slowly, and try to process every verse, every instruction, and every idea; there is so much packed in to these five short chapters: it could drastically change the way that you live!

Day 1:

Scripture: James 1

Reflection questions:

1. James opens his letter by talking about joy in suffering. How does our culture tend to view pain and suffering? How should the Christian view differ from that? (Verses 2-4)
2. What sins do you struggle with most? What desires in you cause you to be tempted to those sins? (Verse 14)
3. Who in your life can you be "quick to hear and slow to speak" with this week? How does verse 26 alter the importance of controlling your tongue? (Verses 19-20, 26)

Day 2:

Scripture: James 2

Reflection questions:

1. In what ways do you find yourself being "partial" to people in your day-to-day life? (Verses 1-10)
2. On a scale of 1 to 10 how well do your "works" reflect your faith? What score would the ordinary people you encounter every day give you? What type of "work" would you like to begin to develop in your life based on your faith in Christ?

Day 3:

Scripture: James 3

Reflection questions:

1. Would you place the same importance on your words as James does in verses 5-8?
2. What instances in your life can you recall where somebody's careless words have hurt you? What about times where words have encouraged you? How should you adjust your words accordingly?
3. What instances of "disorder" and "evil practices" can you point to in your life? Can you trace those back to jealousy or selfish ambition? (Verse 16)

Day 4:

Scripture: James 4

Reflection questions:

1. What should our motives be for things that we ask God for? (Verse 3)
2. How should we continually "submit ourselves to God" and "resist the Devil"? (Verse 7)
3. Verses 13-15 communicate the idea that God is in charge of our lives. How might it change your daily activity if you truly believed this?

Day 5:

Scripture: James 5

Reflection questions:

1. Verses 1-6 are a warning to the "rich". Compared to the rest of the world (which on average lives off of two dollars a day), you as an American are rich. In that light, how might James' warnings apply to you? What idea do you think he is trying to convey here?
2. What specific areas of your life should you strive to be "steadfast" in? (Verses 8-11)
3. What sins in your life do you need to confess and seek help in? (Verse 16)

If you would like to contact someone about a question or something that you read, or you would like help in any area of your life, please send an email to hello@destinationchurch.cc or stop by the Next Steps table on a Sunday morning.