

James: The Test of Maturity

(Wednesday, December 21)

1. James the Unbeliever (Mt. 13:55; Mark 6:3; John 7:2-8)

2. James the Believer (1 Cor 15:7; Acts 1:14; James 1:1)

3. James the Leader (Acts 15; Gal 2:9)

4. James the Martyr in AD 62

5. James the Author wrote the first NT letter (2:2; 3:1)

- a. James wrote to the twelve tribes (Jewish believers) scattered or persecuted.
- b. James wrote to mature “perfect” these believers (1:4, 17, 25; 2:22; 3:2).
- c. James wrote about practical Christianity (no reference to Jesus’ death, etc.). Practice what you already know. James deals with spiritual immaturity. James gives 5 tests.

1. The Test of Wisdom (Chapter 1) Problem: Impatience in Trials

- A. Wisdom for Trials (1:1-17)
- B. Wisdom from the Word (1:18-27)

2. The Test of Works (Chapter 2) Problem: Not practicing the Truth

- A. False Works (2:1-13)
- B. True Works 2:14-26)

3. The Test of Words (Chapter 3) Problem: Not controlling the Tongue

- A. Ways to control the tongue (3:1-12)
- B. Wisdom to control the tongue (3:13-18)

4. The Test of Worldliness (Chapter 4) Problem: Causing Divisions

- A. The source of worldliness (4:1-6)
- B. The remedy of worldliness (4:7-17)

5. The Test of Wealth (Chapter 5) Problem: Coveting Material Things

- A. Punishment for the ungodly (5:1-6)
- B. Patience of the godly (5:7-12)
- C. Prayers of the godly (5:13-20)