

MERCY
TRIUMPHS
OVER
JUDGMENT

AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK ONE

Day One | James 1:1-4

What were some of the trials the recipients of the letter may have been facing?

What is a trial that you have been through? How was it a test of your faith?

Why would you want your faith to be tested? What comes to mind when you read “perfect and complete”?

Day Two | James 1:5-8

How does wisdom relate to endurance & perfection? In what type of situation might you need wisdom? What do you think it means to ask for wisdom in faith? Why does that matter? Read Proverbs 8. How important is it to ask God for wisdom?

Day Three | James 1:9-11

In what sense does someone in humble circumstances have an exalted position?

What should the wealthy person keep in mind concerning their position in life? Do you consider yourself wealthy? How does the knowledge that life is short affect how you live day to day?

Day Four | James 1:12-15

What does it mean to remain steadfast under trial? How does verse 12 relate to verses 2-4? What kind of assurance do we find after faithfully making it through a trial? Where does temptation come from? How do you keep from giving into temptation? Are you currently enduring a trial or battling desires and sin?

Day Five | James 1:16-18

What are some of the good gifts you have received from God this past week? Have you taken time to thank God for those gifts? If not, take some time to do so. How does James describe God in verse 17 compared to earlier verse 13? How has God “brought us forth by the word of truth”? What do you think James means by calling the readers “first fruits”?

Group Question: What do you believe is the most important thing that God wants you to do or to focus on in this season of your life?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK TWO

Day One | James 1:19-20

What are some examples in the Gospels of Jesus being “quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger?” What are some areas in your life where you need to be intentional to that? Which one of these do you struggle with the most? What causes you to be angry the most? How would you define the righteousness of God?

Day Two | James 1:21

What would it look like if you put away all “filthiness and rampant wickedness?” How does living in uncontrollable sin impact others in your life? In your own words, what is meekness? How do you receive something with meekness?

Day Three | James 1:22-25

What does being “doers of the word and not hearers only” mean? If we only hear and don’t do, how are we deceiving ourselves? Is there something specific that you feel God is calling you to do today? What is hindering you from being obedient? Why does James use “the law of liberty” in place of “the word”?

Day Four | James 1:26

How does gossiping about others make sharing the gospel difficult? If you have an uncontrolled tongue, why would this make your faith worthless? How can you begin to bridle your tongue and what impact would that have on others?

Day Five | James 1:27

How can the Church visit and care for the afflicted today? What does being “unstained from the world” mean? What worldly things currently influence you the most and how do they stain you?

Group Question: What area of your character is God challenging you to address at this time? What would progress in that area look like?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK THREE

Day One | James 2:1-4

Who in your life can you pursue that you may have overlooked before? Who did Jesus spend time with and how should that impact who we spend our time with? Why is it important that you “show no partiality?” Have you been shown partiality before?

Day Two | James 2:5-7

Why can it be difficult for someone who is rich to love God? Do you view the poor as “rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?” Would you rather be rich in the world or rich in faith and why? What are the differences between being rich in the world versus being rich in faith? Are there worldly standards you have embraced?

Day Three | James 2:8-9

What does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself?” Why is this so hard to do? In what ways have you shown partiality towards others? How can prayer change your unfair favoritism? What is the key to loving and valuing people who you are not naturally drawn to?

Day Four | James 2:10-11

How did Jesus fulfill the law for those who place their faith in Him? Why is it impossible for you to “keep the whole law” on your own? When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone? Functionally, which sins do you see yourself accepting and which do you consider a big deal? What shapes those opinions?

Day Five | James 2:12-13

What is the law of liberty? Why does mercy triumph over judgment? How did Jesus show mercy on the cross? Why do you have to forgive to show mercy? Is there anyone in your life who you need to forgive and to whom you need to show mercy?

Group Question: What relationship outside of church are you cultivating so that you can share Gospel truth with that person? How can we pray for that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK FOUR

Day One | James 2:14

What kind of faith is James discussing in this verse?

In your own words, what is the right relationship between faith & works?

Are you more likely to rely on faith or works? How does this show itself in your life?

Day Two | James 2:15-17

What is an example of Jesus comforting someone with words, but also making provision for them? How did Jesus change their life? Why is faith without works dead?

Do you find it easier to bless someone with words or with action?

Day Three | James 2:18-19

How can you walk in good works today? Who does James compare demons to and why?

Did Jesus teach that faith is accompanied by works? Can you think of an example where he taught this?

Day Four | James 2:20-24

Read Genesis 15 & 22. Why does James bring up the story of Abraham and Isaac? What does it mean for Abraham to be righteous and justified? How are you considered righteous and how are you justified?

Day Five | James 2:25-26

Read Joshua 2. How does Rahab confess her faith and demonstrate her justification? How can you know if you are considered righteous or not? Why are works important to faith?

Group Question: What is the most important step of obedience that God wants you to take right now? How can our group pray for and support you with that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK FIVE

Day One | James 3:1

Why do you think James wrote this? What problem was he trying to correct?

Why do you think teachers will be judged with greater strictness?

How can you take this teaching to heart, even if you're not in a teaching position?

Day Two | James 3:2-4

Do you think verse 2 has anything to do with verse 1? If so, how?

What is James' main point in verse 2?

Can you think of your own example of the power of words (as seen in verses 3-4)?

Day Three | James 3:5-6

What was a time that your words had a big negative impact?

Why do you think that James is focusing on the negative power of the tongue?

Do you think the tongue is equally powerful if used for good? Why?

Day Four | James 3:7-10

Do you think it's impossible to tame the tongue? Why?

What are some examples of the ways that your speech has been hypocritical?

Knowing that the tongue cannot be tamed - how should we react to verse 10?

Have you tried to tame your speaking habits, how did you go about it?

Day Five | James 3:11-12

Can you think of a setting that is easiest for your tongue to get out of control?

Can you think of a setting that is the easiest for you to speak in a righteous way?

Why is it important for our speech to be consistent throughout our lives?

What is one goal that you can set for yourself in regard to how you speak?

Group Question: Who is at the top of your prayer list for salvation or for repentance and turning back to Jesus?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK SIX

Day One | James 3:13

Who are some examples of wise people in your life? How do they display good conduct? In what ways do you want to be similar to them? How has the book of James given us practical steps to do so?

Day Two | James 3:14

How are some ways you have experienced jealousy and/or had selfish ambition in the last week? Do you struggle with boasting? How do you discern whether your ambitions originate with God or from selfish desire?

Day Three | James 3:15-16

How does the world glorify jealousy, selfishness, and boasting? How do these actions naturally lead to disorder and vile practices? What are some of the practices that are common in our culture that emerge from these things?

Day Four | James 3:17

How often do you ask God for wisdom? Which benefit of wisdom sticks out to you the most? How did Jesus model these characteristics of wisdom from above? As you engage in conversation or debate about cultural issues, how can you model and maintain these characteristics? What would that look like?

Day Five | James 3:18

Have you ever made a sacrifice in order to pursue peace? Is there something you need to sacrifice in order to make peace? What does a harvest of righteousness look like? What is a situation in your life where you are working towards & hoping for that harvest of righteousness?

Group Question: Do you feel defeated in any part of your life? How might Jesus bring you freedom from that feeling?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK SEVEN

Day One | James 4:1-3

When was the last time you experienced significant conflict? What was the cause?

Why is it that our passions lead us away from what God would desire for us?

Describe a time when God said “no” to something because you were asking wrongly.

Day Two | James 4:4-5

In what area is friendship with the world a significant temptation for you?

Why are friendship with the world and friendship with God incompatible?

Why is God jealous over our spirit? Is that wrong for Him to be jealous?

Day Three | James 4:6-10

Why does God give grace to the humble? What is it about humility that He loves?

What does it look like, in practical ways, to resist the devil?

What does it look like to be exalted by God? Have you experienced this?

Day Four | James 4:11-12

Why do Christians struggle to keep these commands?

Is there a brother or sister who you have spoken evil of or judged? What can you do to make things right?

Why shouldn't we take on the role of judge?

Day Five | James 4:13-17

What is this passage saying about making plans & making profits? Are they bad?

Why is boasting arrogant & evil? Have you been boastful about anything?

V17 raises the bar for accountability. Have you ever sinned by failing to do what you knew was the right thing to do?

Group Question: What habit, practice or activity is the most helpful in connecting you to Jesus in a real way? How could you do more of that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

[AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES]

WEEK EIGHT

Day One | James 5:1-6

Why are there such harsh words of condemnation for the wealthy?

How do you make sure that you are being a good steward of your resources?

Why is it wrong to store up treasures and live in luxury & self indulgence?

Day Two | James 5:7-8

In what area or situations do you struggle the most to be patient?

In what ways should we seek to imitate the patience of a farmer?

What does that look like specifically in your life right now?

What causes you to be most eager for the return of Jesus?

Day Three | James 5:9-12

Why is grumbling such a destructive sin? When are you most tempted to grumble?

For you, what is the biggest thing to learn or understand from Job's experiences?

Why is speaking truthfully and keeping your word so important? Do you ever struggle with keeping your word or making promises that you can't fulfill?

Day Four | James 5:13-18

How is your current situation impacting the way that you interact with God?

Do you have relationships in which you are able to confess sin & receive prayer?

Why do the prayers of a righteous person have great power?

What needs to change in your approach to prayer this week?

Day Five | James 5:19-20

Who do you know that has wandered away from the truth? Has God opened an opportunity for you to pursue them & try to bring them back?

What is at stake when someone walks away from faith in Jesus?

What is the biggest lesson you have learned in studying the book of James?

Group Question: What is the greatest temptation that you are facing in this season of your life? How well are you resisting it? Do you have someone to keep you accountable?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.
