

James 5.13-20

The Door of Gospel Grace is Open

Sometimes some of Most Important Thoughts said at End of Mtg/Talk

NT Letters follow Similar Pattern – END Staccato of Brief Ideas

1st C letters sent Expensive Parchment – writers Squeeze in Final Thots

Like end of Gideon Bible – Read this if you are Sad, Happy...

Real Life Situations > Grace is promised all humbly receive Gospel

General Truths for All v. 13 “anyone” // v. 20 “whoever”

1. Pray when Suffering

v. 13 Is anyone among you suffering? “afflicted” / difficult circumstances

Lit. “is anyone here experiencing something bad?”

Ch 5 > 7 references to PATIENCE >> 7 references to PRAYER

Why do bad things happen to God’s People?

1.2,5 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds... If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Not NATURAL have Joy in Bad Times, Only IF KNOW God is Working

v. 13 Is anyone among you suffering? **Let him pray.**

Pray – Not DENIAL they are Happening – Submit & Find Strength

FAITH: God bends those BAD Things for Good Purposes & His Glory

1.12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial

James not interested Spectacular, Miracle-focused Christianity

Pray 4 STEADFASTNESS – Believe & Serve in Daily Grind, Endurance

Wm Carey 41 yrs INDIA w No Furlo – Secret of Success? “I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.”

2. Praise when Smiling

v. 13 “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise”

MOST of Letter James Seems HARD Man – Cheerful = “In Good Spirits”

Language of Hippocrates – Father of Medicine - “patient in good spirits”

“Let him sing **Praise**” = Command! Given MOST often in Scripture

Praise God --- from whom all blessings flow!! All we have from God!

SUFFERING & CHEERFUL > John Calvin “James means there is no time in which God does not invite us to Himself”

Why SING? Praising God delivers us from IDOLATRY of our Hearts

Drives Out praise for ME/ Trust in Ourselves, > Praise & Trust to GOD

Music evokes our Emotions and Affections > Mind, Body, Heart, Spirit

Affairs? Change your Mind, but cannot change HEART “*I still love her!*”

Sing PRAISE of God drives Idolatry/Spiritual Adultery from your Heart

3. Plan for the Sick

v. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord

Not told to Pray or Sing > Call the Elders – Command to take Action

a. Regular, On-Going, Ministry Local Church – Not Call Apostles, or someone w Gift of Healing – Regular Ordinary Elders of Local church

Assumption: If Xtian, Active Member of Local Church/ Only 1 NT Thief

NOT Saying Elders replace Drs. – Paul “beloved physician Luke” Colos 4

Not Sneeze or Runny Nose > Seriously ILL > Today send Specialist!

1Pt 5.2 Elders “be shepherds of God’s flock under your care, as overseers” Need 1 To Share &

2 Active Deacons / Not Happen well in Kalahikiola

Last One to Know – Come to Your House – No Elders, Deacons Quit

You don't Understand – We have HMSA, we are on Kaiser plan!!

Tuesday Prayer Meeting – Nobody Sick? No Crisis? No Family LOST?

Prayer Cards – Filled out by One or Two – Pray when Sent in Email?

b. Spiritual Ministry

vs 15,16 “And the prayer of faith will **save the one who is sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be **forgiven**. Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and pray for one another, that you may be **healed**”

Seems like WORDS are Reversed // Sick – Forgiven // Sinner - Healed

1 All Sickness Result of Sin: IF No Sin / No Sickness/Curse on Creation

“just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned (Romans 5.12)

Examples in Scripture / Link btwn SIN & SICKNESS

Jesus to sick man lowered thru roof “Your sins are forgiven” (Lk 5.20)

Jesus to man at pool of Siloam “Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you” (Jn 5.14)

2. My sickness is not necessarily result of my personal sin –

Cannot Trace 1 for 1 Connection – btwn Specific Sin / Specific Sickness

NOT: He gave me Flu, Cold, COVID – “they’re Not Reading Bible!!”

John 9: Disciples to Jesus: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus: “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him”

3. Progress in Holiness not always connected to progress in Health

Spirituality NOT Measured by How LONG Live or State of UR Health

When Xtian is SICK they feel their SINFULNESS – Poverty of our LIFE

Those feelings are GOOD! Pray, Repent, Confess, Reconcile, Renew

Hesitate to Pray for Healing: 1) Unscientific, 2) Proud, 3) Disappointed

Our Mission Life – Uga/KZ/BJ – Xtian Docs PRAYED & Treated

4. Spiritual Growth is a TEAM Sport

v. 16 confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Martin Luther: “we confess our sins to the Rev’d One Another”

Paul: We Bear One Another’s burdens and so Fulfill the Law of Christ

Good time to Bring Things to God – Clean House, Mend Fences, Thank!

Are you Someone Trustworthy – Share, Pray, Not Gossip or Facebook!

Confess to Man? No, to God! God wants to Restore Relationships

Confess to One Offended – Need to Know Basis – Not General

Confess Secret Sins to God, not People – Hatred, Lust, Revenge

Confess SIN > can be SILENT Prayer to God Together – NOT Tell!

5. Not Sacrament! Vs been used to Build Elaborate System of Religion

3rd C taught OIL used for Anointing needed Consecration by BISHOP

10th C – Anointing must be DONE by PRIEST Ordained by Bishop

12th C called “extreme unction” / Sacrament of DYING, Imminent Death

13th C RC’s Extreme Unction considered 1 of 7 Sacraments of Church

16th C Council of Trent ‘anyone says Extreme Unction not Sacrament instituted by Christ for the Church be damned to hell’

Look at James text: 1. Nothing about the Oil being CONSECRATED

2. Nothing about Oil, Ritual, Priest, or Church conveying Healing Grace

3. Extreme Unction > Prepare for DEATH > James writes to they LIVE!

c. Prayer of Faith by a Righteous Person

v. 15 the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up...v. 16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power

1. Affirmation - Prayer of Righteous / Who? Someone Self-Righteous

“Someone so GOOD, or Done so Much”... Exchange / Barter w God?

Healing is a GIFT – Not a REWARD that God OWES the Religious

Person understands Gospel > God saves Sinners, Mercy Undeserving

OT David Adultery/Murder “hear me because of my righteousness”

Saved by Works? – NEVER! – Saved by Faith in Promise of Mercy

Trust in God’s Word who says “I will save the undeserving, by grace!”

Prayer of Righteous trusts Jesus – Apostle John: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”
1 John 2.1,2

What makes our Faith strong is not its INTENSITY but its OBJECT

2. Illustration NT: Gospel OT Believers /One God, Covenant, Salvation

v. 17 Pray like Elijah? Powerful, Strong, Confrontational, Giant for God

James’ focus NOT on Miracles of Elijah – NORMAL Man who Prayed

Elijah “just like you” – homeopathic – Normal, Natural, Weak MAN

Prayer WAITING for Rain – “Oh God, end my life! I have failed!!”

Prayer of FAITH – NOT Rain, then it DID Rain! – How could he do this?

Because he Knew his Bible – Deuteronomy 28 “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do... because you have forsaken me...with drought... the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder” (28.20-24)

1 Kings 17.1 Elijah...to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives... there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word”

Prayer of Faith – Type A personality – TV Show Host – Theologian

Take God at his Word – Claim the Promise of God – “You Promised!”

Martin Luther “prayer is asking God for what he has already promised”

Elijah confronted King Ahab/Queen Jezebel – Fearful, but Confident

3. Application James is Asking “Will YOU take God at His Word?”

2013 Canadian airline WestJet: Virtual Electr Santa > Departure Lounge Some Passengers shared WISH > Arr Calgary Gifts on Baggage Carousel

Many Passengers IGNORED – Some SMALL Stuff – Some TV’s, CAR!

James 4.2 “You do not have, because you do not ask”!!

Do U read Bible? Do U know Promises of God? Why we Read! FOR US!

Not have Tremendous Faith...Weak Faith...Tremendous PROMISES!

a) God hears prayer even When our Faith is WEAK

Father of Boy w Unclean Spirit to Jesus: “IF you can do anything, have compassion and help us.” Jesus: “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes” Father: “I believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9.24

him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think E 3.20

NO Blaming of Sick that they Do Not Have Enough FAITH!

Paul was Not Healed, Associates Not: Timothy (1 Tim 5.23), Trophimus (2 Tim 4.20), Epaphroditus (Phil 2.25)

People claim I tried to pray but God did Nothing > Person not Believe

Anything you ask will be done! – who speaking to? Those who HEAR!

Not a prayer of DESPERATION – Faith is that God DOES Hear

Not Elders, Oil, or even Prayers that Heal >> It is GOD that Heals!

God ALWAYS answers Prayer – Yes! No! Wait!

Ps 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul & forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who **heals all your diseases**/ Full & Final Death

Pray when Suffering / Praise when Smiling / Plan for the Sick

4. Plead with Stragglers

>> Most Serious Sickness: Every NT letter addresses this Sickness

v. 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Wander from Truth leads to DEATH – 1st NT Letter! James already Seen

We are BENT toward Wandering: Exciting, Adventurous, Not Boring!

Problem > Go too far Cannot come Back > Not INVINCIBLE after All

According to tradition, James martyred by stoning in AD 62 / Jesus is X

“wanders” – verb from English wd “planet” > Wandering across Sky

Not say Person is Church Member > All who Wander from Jesus LOST

Jesus: “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” John 8.32,36

Annanias & Saphira – wandered because wanted Honor in Church

Demas – had an affair, deception – instead of loving Jesus, fell in love with this world – greater than longing for next world

Hymenaeus and Alexander – teaching spread like gangrene

Peter – wandered even as Apostle, Spirit-filled, Still had Fear of MAN

Failure to Attend Church NOT 1st Sign Wander – almost LAST Sign

Begins sit in church NEVER given Heart to God – Empty Rituals

Boring! Bad Sermon/Singing – Criticize Show Not Call on Savior

Not say “Call the Elders” – No! “SOMEONE brings them back”

“Pastor should DO Something!” – James says YOU go and Find Them!

You go and Save a Soul from Death > Don’t send the BAD Cop!

God2Ezek: Warn others, if not “his blood I will require at your hand” 3.18

Jesus story “Somebody should do something about it”

Man beaten on Road – Priest passes By – Teacher Passes – Samaritan!!??

“Which of these 3 men PROVED to BE the Neighbor?” If Not U – who?

If U have no FEAR that Loved One is Going to HELL – Maybe you are!

If you have no Heart for them to Praise/Worship God – Do U Honor Him?

We do not EARN Salvation by trying to Restore Sinner

But do we Believe Salvation is Precious/Essential and Not Tell Others?!

3-2-1 Course --- Did you INVITE anyone? Not too late! Christmas!

1. Pray – let God give you heart of Love for them, God alone can Save

2. Time – Be Willing to Sacrifice – Go There, Spend Time, Money, Eat!

3. Gentle – We are no Better, be Brave but Sensitive

4. Truth – “It is OK!” NO we are not OK! Jesus only can FIX us!

We all could be the SOMEONE James is talking About

What a JOY to See Someone Restored!!

Luke 15 – Something LOST – Sheep – Coin – Son

Shepherd, Woman, Father – REJOICE that Lost are Found!

When Woman finds Lost COIN: “she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so - SAYS JESUS - I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15.9,10

Congregational Prayer - Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, // **who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. // **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. // **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; // **as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. // **For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.**

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; // **for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, **to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. // **Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!**

Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!