

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adulting 101

9/12/2025

Passage: James 1:1

James 1:1 | James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

- Who is James?
 - The NT mentions several people named James, but the general consensus is that this work was written by James the half-brother of Jesus
 - Mentioned in Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3
 - Did not believe in Jesus during Jesus' earthly ministry (Mark 3:31-35, John 7:1-5)
 - Present in the Upper Room with the disciples in Acts 1:14
 - Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7). It is thought this is what convinced James that Jesus truly is our Lord & Savior.
 - James became a prominent figure and the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Galatians 1:19, Acts 15:1-40, Acts 21:18)
- When was it written?
 - Believed to be one of the earliest books of the NT. Dated between AD 44-50, that would be 10-15 years after Jesus's resurrection.
- To whom did James write?
 - "The twelve tribes dispersed or scattered"
 - Twelve tribes= Jews Dispersed= living outside the land of Palestine
 - These would be Christian Jews. James addressed his audience as brothers indicating they would be "brothers in the Lord"
 - They would be dispersed due to persecution of Christians but this allowed the gospel to be taken forth and scattered in many places
 - These people would be disliked by both Jews and Gentiles
- How can you get the most out of this study?
 - Since the theme of the book is spiritual maturity, we must begin by examining our own hearts to see where we are in our Christian "walk"
 - Have you come to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior?
 - Do you seek the Word to honestly examine how you live your life?
 - Do you obey the teaching of God- no matter the cost?
 - How is your attitude in the face of trials and temptations?
 - Do your words and actions reflect the life of Jesus?
 - These are all things (& many more) that will be addressed throughout this study!

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. James identifies himself as a servant (or slave) of God/Jesus. Read Romans 6:17-18. What does it mean to be a servant of Christ and why would James identify himself this way?
2. In James 1:1, James describes who Jesus is for the reader. How does he describe Jesus and what does that mean to you?
3. Before breaking down verses in a book, it is important to understand the letter as a whole. Read through the entire book of James, and write down the key themes you notice as you read.
 - a. What stood out to you the most as you read through the book of James?
 - b. What questions do you have about the book of James?
 - c. There are over 50 commands/calls to obedience in James. Write down some of the commands. Are any of these commands evident in your life?