

Date: 5/4/18

Scripture: James 1:1

Message title: Part #1—"This is me...a slave"

We are having a bible study!

James 1:1 NASB

Intro: Starting a new book so we are going to need some things, some stuff, essentials for the journey. **Going on a trip example:**

We want to look at the who's, whats, wheres, whys as we study and how they apply to our lives.

Over the course of several weeks we will be covering several topics. Such as trials and testing, becoming mature in our walks with God, Faith and how it works, our tongue and the effect of it (good or bad), submission to God and not the enemy(2 Kingdoms), and Power in being prayerful, just to name a few.

Main theme: Real faith produces genuine works.

This writing was the very first book of the NT. Short and practical handbook for Christian living. About 98% of this letter is application.

However, **unapplied truth is like unapplied paint**. We must apply what we learn.

What we believe = How we live (behave)

Note: (Behavior modification vs, **heart transformation**)

Romans 12:2—Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

I had the privilege of praying for a biblical culture in the church at the national day of prayer...I was really reminded about how we can know what the bible says, but never surrender to its authority in our everyday lives. **THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.**

A question for each of us to consider is, "Am I under the authority of God's word?" Not...Did I read my bible, go to community group, study the bible, go to church and hear a sermon, Listen to a podcast...**Am I under the authority of God's word??**

If we claim that "I have come to know Jesus Christ, He is my Lord and my Savior," Let let our lives give evidence of that truth.

The last thing that I want for this study is to be informational. My heart is that we would see transformation by the power of God.

As we look into God's word it is like a divine mirror. It reveals to us who we really are.

Are you ready for transformation?

Pray for an openness to the Lord and heart transformation. HS-move.

Who is James?

- It is wonderful to know who is writing this letter. James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5 diff. James are referenced in the scriptures, but all signs tend to point to James being the half brother of Jesus Christ.
- James who was born into sin must have struggled growing up with Jesus. Jesus always ate his food at dinner without a bribe. Jesus never got into a fight. Jesus did His chores when Mary asked...the first time, Jesus never complained.— Go milk the goat!

- It must have been hard growing up with Jesus. He was the first born (special). The Messiah and Savior of the world, living in his house.

VS- James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Notice what he didn't say: (no name dropping, ego inflating, rank pulling introductions)

- James, A Jewish male, of the tribe of Judah, the house of David, of the royal line of the kings.
- James, the eldest of the brothers of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God.
- James, the wonderful, revered, pastor of the first Christian Church of the world!
- James, long-time associate of Peter, James, John, Paul, and the rest of the apostles.

NO, James a bondservant of God and Jesus Christ. < What you see is, what you get >

Did James believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

We see him as a sceptic and in a state of unbelief throughout the gospels.

2But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, **3**and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! **4**You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" **5**For even his brothers didn't believe in him. (John 7:2-5 NLT)

Then we see an unexpected shift...Jesus appeared to James in the risen state. Paul was writing to the church at Corinth and He says, "Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (1 Cor 15:8)

Since James experienced Jesus for who He was, he went from an opponent of Jesus, and became a component of Jesus in the early Church.

14They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. (Acts 1:14 NLT)

Who was the book written to and when was it written?

- Written around AD 49 from Jerusalem to the 12 tribes scattered or dispersed. James calls them brethren many times, indicating that this was addressed to fellow believers in Jesus, not merely all Jews spread thought the Roman world.
 - 12 tribes dispersed abroad was a generic figure of speech to mean “to all the children of Israel thought the world”
 - (1290) <dispersed>diaspora- dē-ä-sporä' - means a scattering, like seed though into a field.
 - Show map
- The synagogue (to gather together-10 Jewish males) would become platforms for proclaiming the gospel message in the 1st century. “Go into all the world!”
- The Jews were under great persecution about this time due to Emperor Claudius. The Christian Jews were under even greater persecution.
- Anytime we face persecution, we need to realize that God is up to something...and He was! persecution brings multiplication.

- Satan had two major attacks on the Church. #1 persecution (didn't work because it multiplied) #2 pollution (this did work, and is still working, false teachers and a polluted, mutated message is being shared in our churches)
- At this point in history the church was about 20 years old?
Pentecost. 50 days after passover. These were first century Jewish Christians.
- This book was one of the first penned NT books. It almost didn't make it into the canon of scripture. I am glad that it did!

What was the purpose of the writing?

- This was written to encourage the growth of the believer (**BE MATURE**) and do life right! And also to expose hypocritical practices.
- James wants us to know how to live out our faith in a hostile world.
- Considering we are called Christians, we should practice what we PREACH! **or preach what we practice!**
- We want to move from a "**LABEL CHRISTIAN, TO A LIVING CHRISTIAN.**" **Under God's authority and orders!** My life of carnality.

VS- James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

This word bond servant has a lot of meaning behind it.

bond-servant: (1401) *doulos/dü'-los* -A servant, a slave.

- metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men. ie. Absolutely devoted to Jesus! devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

- This title was not what it seems on the surface. When He said this in essence He **identified with Jesus** and also those who had gone before him. (Moses, Isaiah, Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb, Jeremiah, and many others.)
- Paul made a choice to become a BOND servant. Timothy, Jude, and Peter all call themselves Bond servants.
- Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6**who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7**but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. (Phil 2:5-7 NASB)

William Barclay- “The only greatness to which a Christian can ever aspire is that of being the slave of God.”

#1 Becoming a bond-servant of Jesus Christ is **our choice**. (follow)

- A slave would serve the master for 6 years and then have a decision to make. BOND or FREE?
- 6 birds were sitting on a wire, 2 of them decided to fly away...how many are left?

#2 Being a bond-servant reveals **absolute obedience** to the Master. (under authority)

- What you say goes! God said it, that settles it, and that is enough for me.
- We as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ we **forfeit our rights**. We lay it all down before the King.
- When we realize that we have been bought with a price, the precious blood of the Lamb, it **changes our obedience** to what He says.

#3 Being a bond-servant reveals **absolute humility**. (I am relying on you totally)

- The lower we get, the more others can see Jesus!! **More of Jesus, less of ME....— “This is me...a slave”**

And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and **servant of all.**” (Mark 9:35 ESV)

- **Isn't it humbling to think that we can't control anything?** However it gives me great courage and almost a (pride) to know and serve the ONE who can and does control everything!!

#4 Being a bond-servant brings outrageous and contagious **joy**.

Close:

- **Why?** Jesus is the one who cares for me! Never leave me, always with me, goes before me, has great plans that bring about a future and a hope.
- Plus, I am **no longer a slave** to the things that entangled me, **I am free!** Whom the SON sets free is free indeed! **I AM FREE!!!**
- Being a **BOUND** to Jesus is the most **freeing and liberating** place to be!

Finally, James introduces this letter with, “**Greetings.**”

This word means to **rejoice!** This begins to set the tone of this book, next we learn that we should consider it JOY, when we face hardships! Don't miss it!!

Pray

Communion.