

## 7. Outline

1:1-18 = Pursuing wholeness: how the Lord uses trials in our lives

1:19-27 = Evidence of wholeness: speech, anger, obedience

2:1-13 = Love (of the poor)... and obedience to the Law

2:14-26 = Saving faith reveals itself in works

3:1-12 = Control of the tongue reveals the transformed heart

3:13-4:12 = A summons to wisdom and wholeness

4:13-17 = Arrogant planning ignores God's providence

5:1-6 = Misusing wealth and power brings God's judgement

5:7-20 = Suffering: it can grow steadfastness, & it can expose rebellion

## Introducing the book of James

### 1. Read through the whole book of James!

### 2. What sort of Scripture is this?

#### Letter

#### Relationship with other Scriptures:

- connections to Jesus and the sermon on the Mount: similar themes and purpose

#### Relationship to Matthew 5-7

James	Matthew	James	Matthew	James	Matthew
1:2	5:11f.	2:10-11	5:19-22	4:9	5:4
1:4	5:48	2:13	5:7	4:11-12	7:1
1:5	7:7	3:12	7:16	4:13-14	6:34
1:17	7:11	3:18	5:9	5:2	6:19-20
1:20	5:22	4:2-3	7:7-8	5:9	5:22, 7:1
1:22-24	7:24-26	4:4	6:24	5:10	5:11-12
2:5	5:3-5	4:8	6:22	5:12	5:34-35

*From CHBC Core Seminar*

- wisdom: especially 1:4-5, 3:13-18... & throughout  
= knowing God → holiness / wholeness  
= a binary choice
- an exhortation: you MUST respond! watch out!

### **3. Who's the author (probably)?**

4x "James" in the NT.

- NOT: Acts 12:2, Acts 1:13
- LIKELY to be: the brother of Jesus & leader of Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18, Gal. 1:19, 2:9,12).

### **4. The letter's first readers...**

How did they relate to the world around them?

Poor... Scattered...

Problems in their relationships:

Words, anger, divisions, etc

Problems in their hearts:

Divided, not whole

### **5. Important / repeated themes**

Wisdom: = knowing God → godly behaviour

Christian living / specific areas of holiness:

Related to poverty and wealth

Words / speech

Love / relationships

The Law of God: e.g. in 1:25, 2:8 – 2:12

Especially Leviticus 19

Christians still bound by the Law... but for us it is a law of liberty

Obedience, faith and justification:

Martin Luther was wrong about James!

Saving faith ALWAYS reveals itself in works.

The final judgment: 1:10-11, 2:12-13, 3:1, 5:1-6,9,12

= warning... and encouragement

The character of God:

His jealousy

His grace

His simplicity / oneness / undivided

- 1:5 "gives generously" = gives without division

- Deut. 6:4, "... the Lord is ONE"

\*\* Doubleminded-split soul → make us WHOLE:

1:4, 1:8

5:19-20

### **6. The structure of James (!?)**

= different areas... which reveal doublemindedness

= warning... and moving us toward unity / wholeness / repentance