



JAMES

Truth & Love

5:19-20

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

JAMES 5:19-20

Previously in James...

Written to 12 Tribes Dispersed

Jesus Little Brother – witness to his life

Witness to Resurrected Christ

Leader of Early Church – Pastor

Last Week...

- when in _____ Pray

- Prayer is effective and powerful

Important Last Words in Letter today



JAMES 5:19-20

"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ 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."



JAMES 5:19-20

1. There Are Those that will Wander

a) Brothers

- fellow believers writing at and to

b) Clear Up Confusion

- recognition of patterns & truth different than critical judgment of others

- James on Judgment 4:11-12



JAMES 5:19-20

"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

- Jesus on Judgment Matthew 7:1-5

JAMES 5:19-20

"Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."



J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

c) Ways We Wander

- Belief System
 - unsure I can trust God, his word
 - false teachers, appealing ideas, cultural ideals
- Morally & Ethically
 - not believing God's way is for my best
 - choosing to operate in disobedience, claiming to maintain relationship with God
- Relationally
 - withdrawing, isolated, disengaged from others
 - blinded by my own brilliance, not willing to hear from others



JAMES 5:19-20

2. We Should Go After Them

a) instructions to shepherds

- Ezekiel 34:1-6,16 *"The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³ You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.*



JAMES 5:19-20

⁴The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. ⁶My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them."



J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

- ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."

- Luke 15:2-7 "So he told them this parable:
4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.



JAMES 5:19-20

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

b) How we go is important

- commanded by God, the how to seek the wandering is also spelled out



J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

- Galatians 6:1-3 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

- Spiritual – mature, standing that is solid
- Gentle – non-judgmental, careful, kind
- Humility – keep clear on self



J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

- Willing to get messy – bear burdens together

3. Result

a) save soul from death

- scripture clear on salvation
 - one name, one way, one judge
- scripture clear on dangers
 - seeds that sprout and die
 - branches cut off – thrown in fire
 - grieving the Holy Spirit



J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

- confidence – daily walk with God

- claiming truth of scripture

b) covers a multitude of sins

- scripture clear – cross and sin

- 1 John 1:9

- image of Jesus at Resurrection



JAMES 5:19-20

So What?

1. Prone to Wander

- Question Belief System
- Confused By Culture & Practice
- Life Away from Community

2. Heart of the Father

- Seek and Save the Lost
- Celebrate Restoration

3. Stakes are Big

- Saved and Forgiven – eternal results

