

Notre Dame De Lourdes Catholic Church, Price, Utah

Faith in Action: Understanding the Letter of St. James

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1. Who is traditionally believed to have written the Letter of St. James?

Answer: St. James, the brother of the Lord, also known as James the Just, who was a leader of the early Christian Church in Jerusalem.

2. To whom is the Letter of St. James addressed?

Answer: It is addressed to the "twelve tribes in the Dispersion," referring to Jewish Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire.

3. What is the primary theme of the Letter of St. James?

Answer: The relationship between faith and works, emphasizing that faith without works is dead.

4. What does St. James say about enduring trials?

Answer: St. James encourages believers to consider it pure joy when they face trials because the testing of their faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-4).

5. What does St. James say about the source of temptation?

Answer: Temptation comes not from God but from one's own desires, which lead to sin and death (James 1:13-15).

6. According to St. James, how should Christians respond to the Word of God?

Answer: Christians should be doers of the Word, not merely hearers (James 1:22).

7. What metaphor does St. James use to describe the person who hears the Word but does not act on it?

Answer: He compares them to a person who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what they look like (James 1:23-24).

8. What does St. James say is pure and undefiled religion?

Answer: To visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James 1:27).

9. What warning does St. James give about showing favoritism?

Answer: Christians should not show favoritism, especially toward the rich, as it is incompatible with God's command to love one's neighbor (James 2:1-9).

10. What is St. James' teaching on faith and works?

Answer: Faith without works is dead (James 2:17), and a person is justified by works and not by faith alone (James 2:24).

11. How does St. James illustrate his point about faith and works?

Answer: He uses the examples of Abraham, who was justified by his works when he offered his son Isaac, and Rahab, who was justified by her works when she helped the Israelite spies (James 2:21-25).

12. What does St. James teach about controlling the tongue?

Answer: The tongue is a small part of the body but can cause great harm. He warns that it must be tamed because it can be a source of blessing or cursing (James 3:5-10).

13. How does St. James describe wisdom that comes from God?

Answer: Godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere (James 3:17).

14. What causes quarrels and conflicts among people, according to St. James?

Answer: Quarrels arise from selfish desires and passions within individuals (James 4:1).

15. What advice does St. James give regarding pride and humility?

Answer: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, Christians should humble themselves before the Lord, and He will exalt them (James 4:6, 10).

16. What does St. James say about judging others?

Answer: He warns against speaking evil or judging others, as there is only one lawgiver and judge, who is God (James 4:11-12).

17. What does St. James say about boasting about future plans?

Answer: He advises against boasting about tomorrow because no one knows what the future holds. Instead, people should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:13-15).

18. What warning does St. James give to the rich?

Answer: He warns the rich who exploit the poor that their wealth will rot, and their gold and silver will corrode, testifying against them on the day of judgment (James 5:1-5).

19. What example does St. James use to encourage patience?

Answer: He uses the example of farmers who wait for the precious fruit of the earth, urging Christians to be patient as they wait for the coming of the Lord (James 5:7-8).

20. What does St. James say about those who are suffering or cheerful?

Answer: Those who are suffering should pray, and those who are cheerful should sing praises (James 5:13).

21. What should be done for the sick according to St. James?

Answer: The sick should call the elders of the Church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick (James 5:14-15).

22. What does St. James say about the power of prayer?

Answer: The prayer of a righteous person has great power and effectiveness (James 5:16).

23. Who does St. James use as an example of powerful prayer?

Answer: He uses Elijah, who prayed earnestly for rain, and it came after a long drought (James 5:17-18).

24. What does St. James say about confessing sins?

Answer: Christians are encouraged to confess their sins to one another and to pray for each other so that they may be healed (James 5:16).

25. How does St. James end his letter?

Answer: He concludes by encouraging believers to help those who wander from the truth, noting that whoever brings a sinner back from error will save their soul from death (James 5:19-20).

26. What virtue does St. James emphasize throughout his letter?

Answer: He emphasizes the virtue of humility, teaching that God favors the humble and opposes the proud (James 4:6).

27. How does the Catholic Church interpret St. James' teaching on faith and works?

Answer: The Catholic Church teaches that faith and works are both essential for salvation, in accordance with St. James' message that faith without works is dead.

28. What connection does St. James make between the law and love?

Answer: He highlights the “royal law” according to Scripture, which is to love one’s neighbor as oneself (James 2:8).

29. What attitude toward wealth is promoted in St. James' letter?

Answer: St. James warns against greed and the accumulation of wealth at the expense of others, urging the rich to focus on justice and mercy (James 5:1-6).

30. What role does the sacrament of anointing of the sick have in Catholic practice as inspired by St. James?

Answer: The sacrament of anointing of the sick is based on St. James' instruction in James 5:14-15, where the sick are to be anointed with oil and prayed over by the elders for healing.

