

New Hope Sunday School: Study of James Lesson 4 – Faith and Trouble - James 1:9-12

Faith and Bragging rights

Jas 1:9-11 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Jer 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

- Two Brothers
 - What does the fact that James uses the term “Brother” to represent both the poor and rich Christian indicate?
 - What is not the exaltation of the lowly ***brother***?
 - What is the exaltation of the lowly brother?
 - What is the exaltation of the rich brother?
 - It seems that the rich and the lowly are meeting in the middle is this true? Why or Why not?
- Physical and Spiritual –the vanity of the material
 - Are material things bad? (see Psalm 112:1-3; Proverbs 14:24)
 - What is the relationship between what we have and who we are?

“He is a great man that is not lifted up because of his greatness” Augustine
- How is this comparison between the rich and the poor related to being double minded? (See Matthew 6:24)
 - What is not the pursuit of both the rich and the poor brother?

New Hope Sunday School: Study of James Lesson 4 – Faith and Trouble - James 1:9-12

- What is the pursuit of both the rich and the poor brother?
- In what way is it possible for both the rich and the poor to serve mammon?
- How is our view of our material condition related to our faith?

Pursuit of Blessedness or Happiness

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- What is the difference between Blessedness and Happiness? (state of being vs a state of mind)
- Why is the man blessed, who remains steadfast under trial?
- Isn't it wrong for Christians to look for a reward?
- Who can appreciate the kind of reward spoken of here?
- How is the focal point (crown of life) related to our faith?
- How is verse 12 related to verses 9-11?

Comparison with other passages in James

- James 1:9-11; James 2:1-8; James 4:1-3; 5:1-3
- James 1:12; James 1:2-4; James 5:7-11