

## Saint James of Jerusalem

Sermon Road Map

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James 1:1-12

October 22 & 23, 2016

### Lord, grant me wisdom for Life.

*O Lord, grant me wisdom!* It can come out of our mouth so quickly.

- Raising children - young, teens, college - all ages
- Do you find yourself praying this a lot as you prepare to vote?
- Life calls for wisdom.

### Lord, grant me wisdom for Life.

❖ The definition of wisdom.

- Knowledge and insight applied rightly in view of the long-run reality
  - ♦ It calls for insights from experience to aptly apply truth to reality.
- Many define: Commonly held collective opinion of what's good
  - ♦ *How can 300 million Americans be wrong?* - sin's blinding foolishness
  - ♦ Worldly wisdom: it's shortsighted, it doesn't see the whole picture
- True wisdom will be obvious in eternity.
  - ♦ Fact: sin separates from God & all that's good. Eternal separation = bad
    - The foolishness of sin - its blindness and captivity
    - Foolishness of human arrogance - acts like it's the decider/in charge
  - ♦ Fact: righteousness is right and good - pure eternal good with God
    - No pain, crying, lovelessness, death, hunger, thirst, emptiness!
    - Life lived to the full, engaged in the good God made us for
  - ♦ Fact: Jesus is the Christ, the One who rescues us from foolishness
    - He paid for our sin - reconciling us to God
    - His Word opens our eyes through faith to the truth and true wisdom
    - It's not just truths, but a new mindset from God, godly wisdom
  - ♦ How foolish to reject what is good, just to blindly have it our way!

### Lord, grant me wisdom for Life.

❖ God's wisdom sees the blessings in life's challenges

- Wisdom sees trials as pure joy. How?! Why?
  - ♦ It tests our faith - trust in Christ and his promise to rule all for our good
  - ♦ This is not a multiple choice or true false test! (correct answers alone)
  - ♦ It's a test to put off the doubts, fears, foolish notions
  - ♦ It's a test to put on God's promises - see through the fog with his Light
  - ♦ It's a test to purify and enrich - maturity, completeness, lack nothing!
  - ♦ Persevere with God's Word - builds trust, hope, peace, love, wisdom

- Under trial our relationship with God is lived and practiced.
  - ♦ Prayer is living and practicing our real relationship with God.
  - ♦ It's an act of worship - treating him as our God, our Provider/Protector
  - ♦ Prayer is faith's voice - going to God based on his promises
  - ♦ Prayer is an act of humility, acknowledging our impotence & his power
  - ♦ Prayer is wise. It is acting on God's revealed reality.
  - ♦ To pray without certainty is **not** praying in faith.
  - ♦ Faith's certainty is wise. It trusts God & his promises, not my faith!

❖ God's Wisdom keeps us balanced

- Believers living in humble circumstances - see their royal status
  - ♦ God has claimed me as one of his - Child of God is my title/status
  - ♦ Joint heir with Christ of his entire kingdom
  - ♦ Heir to life to the full - beyond imagination
  - ♦ Personally protected from the Enemy
- Believers with plenty - the wisdom to never forget their mortality
  - ♦ I am **not** rich because I'm so good or I did it!
  - ♦ Humbled to be so blessed by God in this life as well as eternity
  - ♦ Humbled to be called to use life, wealth, health, relationships, status, employment, roles/callings... all to serve our Gracious God
  - ♦ There is no wisdom without this humility - living as a repentant sinner

❖ God's promised undeserved gift of the Victor's Crown of Life

- We didn't earn it. It's God's gift to those who remain in Christ to the end
- It's the ultimate prize. Only a fool would despise it and lose it!
- James of Jerusalem - brother of our Lord Jesus.
  - ♦ Foolish in youth: considered Jesus out of his mind (Mark 3:21), needing James' advice (Matthew 12:46, John 7:3-5)
  - ♦ Did Jesus' sermon in John 7 impact him?
  - ♦ The risen Lord appeared to him - 1 Cor. 15:7
  - ♦ A leader in the church in Jerusalem - respected by all
  - ♦ His wisdom, clearly God-given, richly blessed God's Church/people
  - ♦ Persevered in the face of opposition - final witness given as killed for persevering in Christ, exposing the foolishness of the hostile

**Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.** Hebrew 13:7

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