

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 5:14-20
Lesson #26
Restoring one another
08/29/2021

James 1 (the first words)

“² **Consider it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter **various trials**, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Various trials are inevitable

James 5 (the last words)

“¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you **strays from the truth** and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

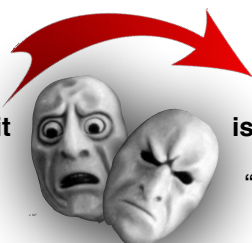
but our response is in question.

1

How do we too often respond to a broken world?

- don't listen and learn
- jump to conclusions
- lose our cool

Anxiety
 is a negative audit of the future.
 “Something awful might happen.”



Anger
 is a negative audit of the past.
 “Something awful has happened.”

- Shame - “I blew it.”
- Blame - “Someone else blew it.”

2

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

This is what we should know

Christians are chosen aliens in a broken world.

1:1-18

This is what we should do

“quick to hear”
 “Listen up”

1:19-2:13

“slow to speak”
 “Shut up”

2:14-3:12

“slow to anger”
 “Cool it”

3:13-5:20

James 1:19



How are we to respond to trials?
“Slow to anger”, Pray, Sing, and Support each other.

3

James 5

“¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

4

“¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit (**1 Kings 17-18**). ¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

5

James 5:14-20 (paraphrase)

"If anyone is spiritually burned out and not able to pray in faith, let him call the elders (who are spiritually strong) and let them pray that the weary person would be put back on his feet. Don't let him stay down, depressed and unkept, but minister to him (physically and spiritually) in the name of the Lord. If his condition is related to sin, God will be gracious and forgive him. Don't forget that you are one body in Christ and to be healthy you need to share your needs and help one another out. Restoration comes through prayer, faith, and community."

6

The Greek words used in this text suggest an application to the fatigue and stress that comes from suffering.

James 5

"14 Is anyone among you sick (**weak** 1Pet.3:7 "weaker vessel")? . . . 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick (**weary** Heb.12:3 "lose heart") and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

1 Pet.3:7 "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone **weaker**, since she is a woman;"

Heb.12:3 "For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow **weary** and lose heart."

7

James 5

"14 . . . Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing (**grooming** Ruth 3:3, Matt.6:17) him with oil (**medication** Lk.10:34) in the name of the Lord;"

Ruth 3:3 "Wash yourself therefore, and **anoint** yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor."

Matt.6:17 "But you when you fast, **anoint** your head, and wash your face."

Lk.10 "33 But a certain Samaritan,. . . 34 came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, **pouring oil and wine on them**; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

8

James 5

"16 Therefore, **confess your sins to one another**, and pray for one another so that you may be healed (Matt.13:15 **spiritually**)."

The question is - healed from what?

Matthew 13

"14 And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, "You will keep on hearing, but will not **understand**; and you will keep on seeing, but will not **perceive**; 15 for the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes lest they should **see** with their eyes, and **hear** with their ears, and **understand** with their heart and return, and **I should heal them.**" 16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear."

9

Paul's prayers for beloved aliens suffering in a hostile world.

Ephesians 1

"18 I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. . . ."

Jesus faced the Cross

knowing what was behind it and beyond it.

Paul's prayer is that

we would follow Christ's example.

10

Ephesians 3

"14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, . . . 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**, 18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled up to all the fullness of God.**"

Dealing with life's trials starts with God's power within us not with changes outside us.

11

A sense of **social responsibility** is an important part of our restoration to strength and wellbeing.

This point is noted in each chapter of James
1:27, 2:8,14-16, 3:14-18, 4:1,11, 5:9,14,19-20.

James 5

"19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, **20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."**

**The truth of the Way of the Cross
is not the changing of our circumstances
so much as seeing past them
and living through them.**

12

Hebrews 12

"1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with **endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who **for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not **grow weary and lose heart.**"**

**We are to fix our eyes and hope on Jesus
(not the world or the church).**

We are to find **encouragement
from those who keep their eyes on Jesus
in the midst of circumstances, good or bad
(Hebrews 11).**

13

**The world will not understand joy,
forbearance, and thankfulness
under difficult circumstances.**

Philippians 4 (from Paul while in prison)

"4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your **forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your **hearts** and your **minds** in Christ Jesus."**

14

**Disciples should understand joy,
forbearance, and thankfulness
under difficult circumstances.**

1 Thessalonians 5

"16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

John 17:23

"I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and **didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."**

15

Galatians 6:2

"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."

**Christianity
that doesn't
start with the
individual
doesn't start.**



**Christianity
that ends with
the individual
ends.**



**The Word of the Cross
1st Commandment**

**The Way of the Cross
2nd Commandment**

16

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
live in **harmony** with one another (Romans 12:16)
build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
be **likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)
accept one another (Romans 15:7)
admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
be **patient** with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
be **kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
look to the **interests** of one another (Philippians 2:4)
bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
stir up one another to **love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
show **hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
employ the **gifts that God has given us for the benefit** of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
clothe yourselves with **humility** towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
pray for one another (James 5:16)
confess our **faults** to one another (James 5:16)

**The two greatest
commands, on which,
according to Jesus,
all the others depend,
are concerned with
relationships, with God
and one another
(Matthew 22:36-40)**

**44% of the N.T.
Epistles are about
our responsibilities
to "one another"
4% is about
teaching and
preaching 17**

Examples from the early church

- **Barnabas** - Acts 9:26 (defending Paul before the Apostles) 15:36-41 (accepting John Mark)
- **Titus** - 2 Cor.7:5-6 (comforting Paul when depressed)
- **Corinthian ch.** - 2 Cor.2:5-11 (restoring a penitent brother)
- **Jesus** - Accepting those discarded by the religious systems of his day.
- **God's choice** - 1 Cor.1:18-31 (chose the foolish things of the world).

18



19

A supportive community
starts & keeps us going
in the right direction.



20

Lessons

- **Weariness** - As we face trials we should expect weariness and fatigue.
- **Community** - We need each other as we face life's hardships.
- **Availability** - When weak, ask for help. When strong, provide help.
- **Witness** - Demonstrate what it means to be one body in Christ supporting to each other.

21

1 John 4:11

“Beloved, if God
so loved us,
we also ought
to love one another.”

22

Next Week

Clarifying
the Biblical
teaching on
healing
prayer



23