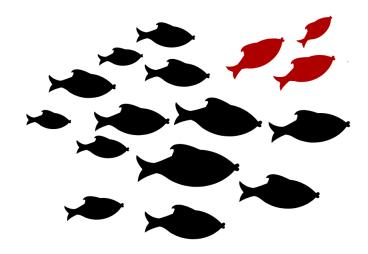
JAMES

WISDOM FOR DISSIDENTS*



JAMES 1:19-27

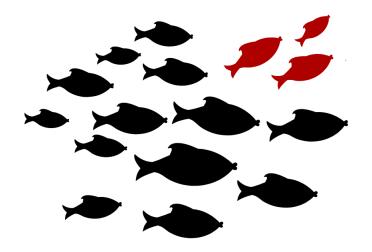
APRIL 30, 2023

Spring/Summer 2023

The book of James is one of the earliest writings of the New Testament and given as wisdom to followers of Jesus who were facing severe trials. However, this wisdom does not align with the prevailing wisdom of any age. The Gospel of Jesus creates loving dissidents – those who dissent from the dominant way of being and, instead, live in step with the Kingdom of God. This dissent may be subtle or strong, but it is always a result of following Jesus in a culture committed to following many other things. Further, this type of wisdom pictures an alternate way of life for a world that desperately needs it. James is wisdom for such a life.

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Changed by the Word of Truth

April 30, 2023 | James 1:19-27 | Pastor Roger Williams

We are changed by the Word of truth as we listen to it quickly, receive it intentionally, and do it fully.

James 1:16-27

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Romans 12 ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 15 ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

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