

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	Yes
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	
<b>Other Notes</b>	There is a Memorial Day video which will begin playing automatically at the beginning of the service.

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## Key Questions

**What is this sermon about?**

[text here]

**Why is this sermon important?**

[text here]

**What is the context of this sermon?**

[Context of sermon - place, congregation, time, events]

**What are the next action steps?**

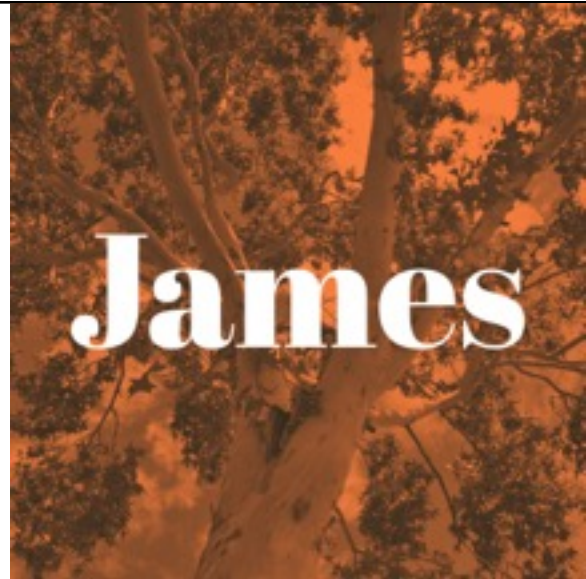
[text here]

**What is the good news (bottom line)?**

[text here]

**What are other key takeaways? (140 characters or less)**

- [text here]



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## Metadata

### Topic(s)

1. Change Lives
2. Develop Leaders
3. Give
4. Grow
5. Make Disciples
6. Serve
7. Share
8. Share Christ
9. Transformation of the World
10. Worship

2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
James - Hearer / Doer  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1R98onx>

May 29, 2016  
James 1:19-27  
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,886  
Audio Online is not available

## Sermon Books of the Bible

1.

## Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference

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## James 1:19-27, CEB

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

### Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

### Series Review

We all have choices in life. Often, it seems, that we have to choose one or the other: Right or Left. This or That. True or False. Stop or Go. Sometimes, the answer is Both / And. Join us for a four-week series in worship as we consider the message of the book of James and how to live as disciples in our everyday life.

### Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

#### *Take Notes - Bulletin*

I invite you to take notes during the message today. You can find a place in your bulletin or if you have a mobile device you can take notes and save them in the Bible App. Just open the Bible App,  
click on "More"  
and then "Events"  
You'll find us on the map.

### ***God Speaking***

I pray that you will hear God speaking to you sometime during the service today. Listen for God's word for you – something that helps you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Whenever you hear it, write it down.

### ***Tool for Spiritual Growth***

Then, take this bulletin home with you so that you can grow in your faith outside of worship by reflecting on what you heard today, praying for others connected with our community and reading scripture.

### **Prayer**

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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## **Opening Story**

[Text here]

### ***Transition***

[Text here]

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## **Understanding the Book of James**

“James is one of the writings from the first three centuries attributed to James the brother of Jesus.”<sup>1</sup>

### **General Letters**

“[James] is addressed to “the twelve tribes in the diaspora,” rather than to a specific group such as the believers in Corinth or Rome. James is part of the corpus of Catholic Epistles each known but the name of its author. The corpus was a collection addressed to the church generally rather than to a particular local group.”<sup>2</sup>

- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John

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<sup>1</sup> Painter, John “James.” In Volume 3, *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, edited by Katharine D. Sakenfield, et al. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Painter, John “James.” In Volume 3, *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, edited by Katharine D. Sakenfield, et al. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

- Jude

**Example: Sermon to the congregation, individual and to me**

**Example: Rules for Children / Adults / Household Rules**

**Example: Rules for Children in General / John and Anne**

## Message to the Whole Church

Some of the letters in the New Testament are addressing particular issues in the church to which they are written. Part of the power of James is that these words are designed to be applicable to a large group of people.

### Transition

So, let's take a closer look at the message of James

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## Four Themes

### Morals not Manners<sup>3</sup>

James is focused on morals, not manners.

#### 1) Morals, not manners

Manners are about being polite and keeping your place in society.

Morals are about your attitudes and behavior. They are about the person that you are becoming and are shaped over a long period of time.

### Example: Who is watching?

You might consider manners as those things that help you interact with others. Morals certainly do as well, however they are also part of who you are when no one else is around.

### Intentional community not household<sup>4</sup>

James is addressed to an intentional community, not a household.

#### 1) Morals, not manners

#### 2) Intentional community, not household

### Example: Friends, Family

You may have heard it said that you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family. For the most part, you are stuck with the people that are related to

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<sup>3</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *James*, vol. XII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 179.

<sup>4</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *James*, vol. XII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 180.

you. This is also true for the place where you are born. You have some choice over the country where you live, but for many people there is no way to make a decision.

It is important to know how to behave as part of a household and as a citizen, however James has nothing to say about these responsibilities. Instead, James is focused on those persons who have been called out of the world to be the church. You have to opt in to the church. You may have been baptized when you were a baby - before you knew what was going on, however you have to decide to show up, to be part of this particular community and to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

James is writing to those that have made this decision.

### **Equality not hierarchical**

James is written with the perspective that we are all equals.

- 1) Morals, not manners
- 2) Intentional community, not household
- 3) Equality, not hierarchy

This sets the book apart from much ancient wisdom which assumes and reinforces the differences in status, especially between parents and children.

In James, the only kinship language is that of “brother” and “sister,” with even the author presenting himself as a “slave” rather than as an authority. God is the only “father” in this community (1:17-18, 27).<sup>5</sup>

### ***Example: Who’s the Boss of who? Whose in charge here?***

### **Community not Individual**

James is focused on the community, not the individual.

- 1) Morals, not manners
- 2) Intentional community, not household
- 3) Equality, not hierarchy
- 4) Community, not individual

“James calls for attitudes of solidarity, mercy, and compassion.”<sup>6</sup> This focus is the opposite of what we find most often in our lives. You don’t have to look far to find people that are focused on themselves.

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<sup>5</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *James*, vol. XII of *The New Interpreter’s Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 180.

<sup>6</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *James*, vol. XII of *The New Interpreter’s Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 180.



## Today's Passage

### James 1:19-21 - Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak and Slow to Grow Angry

Hear these words from James 1:19-20:

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.<sup>7</sup>

### James 1:22-25 - Doers of the word

Hear these words from James 1:22-25:

You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.<sup>8</sup>

### True devotion to God

Hear these words from James 1:26-27:

If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.<sup>9</sup>

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## Conclusion

### Good News

The good

### Call to Action

[Text here]

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<sup>7</sup> James 1:19-21, CEB.

<sup>8</sup> James 1:22-25, CEB.

<sup>9</sup> James 1:26-27, CEB.

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### **Invitation**

[Text here]

### **Closing Prayer**

[Text here]

Amen.