

Daily Walk With God

Week 44

Week 44 Day 1

Readings: John 7:10-24; James 1:1-11; Psalm 104:16-35; Proverbs 25:15-20; Jonah 1-2.

Focus Verse: "But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:4)

Key Concept: Making the Most of Trials (James 1:2-8). Many people view life's hard knocks as occasions to complain and grumble. Not content with self-pity, such people will often seek pity from others. "Life isn't fair," they remind us, and that fact seems to justify their pessimism.

James tells us to view trials differently. He doesn't say to face trials with pessimistic grumbling. He doesn't even say to look back on our trials with a sense of joy. He says to "count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (v. 2, emphasis added). Notice that he does not teach self-infliction of suffering. Life has its share of tough times, and James says to see the positive opportunity when we happen to face ours. We can have such confidence that hardship will help us grow spiritually that we can welcome it when it comes.

Action: Face today's difficulties with the joy of true faith.

Week 44 Day 2

Readings: John 7:25-31; James 1:12-18; Psalm 105:1-22; Proverbs 25:21-28; Jonah 3-4.

Focus Verse: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

Key Concept: A Preacher With a Bad Attitude (Jonah 3-4). In terms of numerical responses, Jonah was one of the most successful preachers of all time. The great city of Nineveh, from king to servant, repented when he preached. But Jonah so despised the Ninevites that he was angry that God did not destroy them. God's rebuke of Jonah shows that He cares for the lost around us. Do we?

Action: Share the gospel because you love God and people.

Week 44 Day 3

Readings: John 7:32-39; James 1:19-27; Psalm 105:23-45; Proverbs 26:1-6; Micah 1-3.

Focus Verse: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Key Concept: "Be Doers of the Word" (James 1:21-27). The world is full of people who pay lip service to ideas but never exert themselves to change their lives. James recognized that churches can also be filled with such people. He warns about those who leave a place of worship commending a "good sermon" but who then go on through the week without applying its message. The gospel is designed to change us from the inside out!

Action: Be a doer, not just a hearer.

Week 44 Day 4

Readings: John 7:40-52; James 2:1-13; Psalm 106:1-27; Proverbs 26:7-12; Micah 4-5.

Focus Verse: "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality." (James 2:1).

Key Concept: Living Without Prejudice (James 2:1-13). James cuts to the heart of unjust discrimination by showing that it starts with prejudice. If the rich are honored and the poor despised, we are "judges with evil thoughts" (v. 4). When such prejudice leads to the action of showing partiality, we actively sin (v. 9). There simply is no room in God's plan for the kind of racial and social prejudice that sometimes troubles our world.

Action: Examine your attitudes. Purge ungodly prejudices.

Week 44 Day 5

Readings: John 8:1-12; James 2:14-26; Psalm 106:28-48; Proverbs 26:13-19; Micah 6-7.

Focus Verse: "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." (James 2:24)

Key Concept: "Faith Without Works is Dead" (James 2:14-26). Despite the clear teaching of this passage, some people continue to teach that salvation is by faith only, apart from any action of the one who believes. James could not have been any plainer! We must be careful, however, that we do not apply this text too narrowly. The principle here applies to actions necessary to become Christians, but it also includes the continued obedience of God's children (see vv. 14-16).

Action: Keep on working!

Week 44 Day 6

Readings: John 8:13-20; James 3:1-12; Psalm 107:1-22; Proverbs 26:20-28; Nahum 1-3.

Focus Verse: "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body." (James 3:2)

Key Concept: Taming the Tongue (James 3:1-12). The tongue is man's most powerful tool, and has also been called "the deadliest of all blunt instruments." Words motivate people to political change and, more importantly, to spiritual transformation (cf. Romans 1:15-16). Words can also do irreparable damage. James suggests that there is no greater challenge in life than to keep the tongue bridled.

Action: Measure every word before you say it.

Week 44 Day 7

Readings: John 8:21-29; James 3:13-18; Psalm 107:23-43; Proverbs 27:1-7; Habakkuk 1-3.

Focus Verse: "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Habakkuk 2:20)

Key Concept: Asking God "Why" (Habakkuk 1-3). Habakkuk was distressed by the apparent injustice of a corrupted world. His book records his questions--and God's answers--about justice and fairness. As you read this little book, notice Habakkuk's willingness to listen and accept God's answers. We should imitate his reverence as we seek to understand God's will.

Action: As you seek to understand an unjust world, remember that the Lord still rules in His holy temple. We may not always see His plan, but He is in control!