



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: FAITH at WORK

Message: “Don’t Take the Bait!”

DATE: January 30, 2022

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

James 1:13-18, Job 15:35, Psalm 7:14, Isaiah 59:4, Romans 5:12, 6:23 (Death), John 3:27, Number 23:19, John 1:13, 2 Corinthians 6:7, **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, 2 Timothy 2:15,

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[James 1:13-18]

“¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully grown, brings forth death.

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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jas 1:13–19.

“Every situation is an opportunity for Spiritual Growth...”

—Christiane Northrup, M.D.

TERMS & BACKGROUND:

[FATHER OF LIGHTS]

“That God is author of everything good was a commonplace of Jewish and Greek wisdom. That what is in the heavens is perfect was a common belief in antiquity, and Jewish writers sometimes used “from above” to mean “from God.”

“Father of lights” could mean “Creator of the stars”; the pagans viewed the stars as gods, but Jewish people viewed the stars as angels. (Canaanites at Ugarit had long before called El the “Father of lights,” and the Dead Sea Scrolls call God’s supreme angel “Ruler of lights.” Various ancient Jewish texts call stars “the lights”—cf. Gen 1:14–19; Jer 31:35.)

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jas 1:17.

[VARIATION OF TURNING]

“Ancient astronomers used words like “moving shadows” to describe the irregularities of heavenly bodies; but philosophers viewed what was perfect, what was in the heavens, as changeless and without direct contact with [the] earth. Most of the ancient world believed in astrology and feared the powers of the stars. James is not supporting astrology; rather, like other Jewish writers, he is declaring God lord over the stars while denying God’s inconsistency.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jas 1:17.

[IMMUTABILITY]

This is the attribute of God that describes the fact that God never changes and is always the same. He is perfect and Holy therefore never in error or flawed in any way in His thoughts or actions. (J M Baker)

OUTLINE

I. (v13-15) PREPARE & PROTECT: Sin Birthed

In this section, we get the picture of fishing and the cycle of life that is given to prepare us for the dangers that are within us (fleshly desire) and the assured response when what is within us pairs with the bait of temptation; Sin is born.

(v13) “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God.” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.”

1. God is Sovereign and in control
2. God is not the agent of Temptation
3. It is not possible for God to Tempt us to sin as He cannot be tempted by evil as He is pure (Absent of evil and evil desire)
4. It is not possible for Him to tempt for the same reason (He has no evil desire within Him)

B. (v14) “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

1. The source of your temptation comes from a desire within us
 - a) *We have an evil wicked heart and desire what is evil to have it for our own (Jeremiah 17:9-10)*
2. We are enticed to sin because we desire to sin (Adam & Eve in the Garden)
3. The temptation and the Sin are from within me (my heart)
 - a) **Romans 3:23**- (All men have this problem)

C. (v15) “Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully grown, brings forth death.”

1. The cycle of life is used to show life is given to the sin which will bring death
 - a) *The desire that was there already “Conceived”- The temptation gives an opportunity for the conception of a sin baby*
 - (1) Resist the temptation and the Sin baby will not come into reality
 - b) *“Sin” when it grows up-*
 - (1) Sin not dealt with at conception has the potential to devour the person and the sin baby gets its new teeth to bit you and then take your life from you
 - c) *“Death”-*
 - (1) eternal separation from God (Spiritual death)
 - (2) Also Represents tragic consequences

“It is almost always when things are all blocked up and impossible that a happening comes. If you are sure you are looking and ready, that is all you need.
God is turning the world around all the time.”

-Herschel H. Hobbs

II. (v16-18) WATER & WASH: Spiritual Re-Birth

In this section, we see get the picture of agriculture and gift-giving. In comparison to the dangers associated with the first Adam, the Last Adam gives us good gifts. These gifts produce fruit that is connected to and grown by the word of God. We are not to be deceived but rather allow our Spiritual eyes to be opened by the Word of God.

A. (v16) “*Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.*”

1. *James was just talking about the dangers that come from our evil hearts in the way of desire.*
 - a) This sets up for this warning of “**do not be deceived**” dear Christian brother or sister.
 - (1) *Don't be led away by your evil heart (never trust your heart)*
 - (a) Love is often lust because of our flesh
 - (b) Good deeds are often camouflage for self-focus & people pleasing
 - (2) *Don't be led away by the mentality of always being the victim (Its always about someone doing me wrong)*
 - (a) Blame Shifting never allows us to see our true needs
 - (b) Blame Shifting never allows us to reach the point of confession and repentance
 - (3) *Don't be led away by the mentality that you are owed something (you deserve it)*

- (a) Your belief that you have been done wrong negates that from the beginning we have sinned against Sinless God
- (b) = Forgetting we deserve Hell (Judgment)

(4) *Don't be led away by the mentality that God created you this way (you cannot change)*

- (a) = *Conformed by the world (Not allowing God's word to change you)*

(5) *Don't be led away by the thought that you need that in your life for happiness (Happiness is your focus)*

- (a) = *False need*

B. (v17) “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.” (ESV)

(v17) “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (NRSV)

1. **“Generous Act of Giving”-**

- a) If the NRSV has this translation correct here this portion speaks to the giving which is God's acts-

(1) Meaning His actions are always good and perfect (which is true of Sovereign God)

2. **“Good and Perfect Gift”-** If the ESV and other translations have this correct this is just two ways to describe the same thing which is the Gift that is good and perfect

- a) *“Good” comes from the Greek word meaning beneficial for us (the receiver of the gift)*
- b) *“Perfect” morally perfect, genuine, true*

3. **“Father of Lights”-** Creator of the Stars (see other notes)

4. **“No Variation”-**“Variation” connotes the orderly and periodic movements of sun, moon, planets, and stars.” (D. Moo)

5. **“Shadow of turning”**- NRSV renders, “shadow due to change”
(D. Moo)
 - a) *Variation and Shadow speak to the same visual image of everything in the outer Space constantly turning and changing in contrast to God’s (immutability)*

C.(v18) “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

1. **“Of His own Will”**- God **Voluntary** and **deliberate** Will
 - a) *He wants to give the gift to us*
 - b) *He sets this gift into motion towards us*
= This answers the why question

2. **“Brought us forth by the Word of Truth”**-
 - a) *The Word is the theme that carries forward into 1:19-27*
 - b) *The means by which God produces Spiritual re-birth and faith is through the word of God*
 - (1) **Romans 10:17** “faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of God”
 - (2) The word was spoken before the foundations of the earth (Concrete/from the mind & will of God)
=This answers the How question

3. **“That we should be a kind of First Fruits of His creation”**-
 - a) *Jesus is the **first fruit** in that He identified with us and became the New Adam (Vice Regent/God/ Man)*
 - (1) **Deuteronomy 26:1-11** Believing farmers would bring the very first and best fruits from the crop believing that God would bless the rest of the crop by putting Him first
 - (a) *Ironically God blesses the rest of the Crop of sinners being saved by Grace because Jesus was presented to God as the first and best*
 - (2) **Romans 8:28-29** “...for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to

the image of his Son, in order that he might be **the firstborn** among many brothers.

(a) **Firstborn** speaks of the birthright and the inheritance

(b) **First Fruit** speaks to christ's off Spring that is also connected to the inheritance of Christ (Spiritual Son's & Daughters)

b) *The purpose of the Gift of truth is that we might be His Children*

(1) In the process of Salvation **Regeneration** must occur to open blind eyes to see their lost condition

(2) What is the **purpose of regeneration**/opening our spiritual eyes to see-- so that the only response that will be "forgive me a sinner"

Application:

- If we are *looking at people or even ourselves for answers*, we are looking at shadows, but when looking into His word at the Son of God there are no shadows only light
- The backdrop of pressure-filled circumstances lead us to truth taht we need Jesus or all will be lost; Have you reached the end of your self help? Jesus is calling!
- The Lord has brought you to the place of no return so that you will turn to Him and be saved, and that you may be a tool to lead others to truth.

"If we can't be a lighthouse, let us be a tallow candle, Both are equally dependent on the Lord for their shining. His must be the glory."

- DL Moody
