

James - Becoming whole in a fractured world

Whole people are resilient

James 1:1-4, 12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are intended to use in discussion and application of the past week's sermon.

Listening

What part of the sermon was most helpful to you or challenged you to think and/or live differently? How will you apply this message to your life?

Engaging

Have someone read Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 1:6-7, and then James 1:2-4. Discuss the vast difference between the way Paul, James, and Peter understand suffering and the way we are naturally accustomed.

In both James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10, the reward or culmination of enduring suffering is 'the crown of life'. Elsewhere, in 1 Cor.9:25 and 2 Tim.4:8 a 'crown' or 'wreath of victory' is presented by the Lord as a celebration for the victorious who love him. Discuss how such rewards can truly be valuable for the people of God in this lifetime.

Applying

What examples can you recall where trials and hardships were redeemed to produce something truly valuable and even joyful?

Because the letter of James contains numerous instructions and cautions for believers to live lives of faith-integrity, it can be twisted to feel rigid or legalistic. How can we faithfully practice obedient faith without falling out of alignment into legalism?

What causes well-intentioned believers to neglect or forget our primary heavenly citizenship? Certainly beyond labels and accusations, how can we be a bridge back to righteousness for them?

Praying

In light of this message and discussion:

How can we pray for each other?
Where do you feel challenged or convicted?

What can we praise God for?
How can we pray for our church?