

April 23, 2017
Sermon Notes
James 1:1-12

Theme of James: How shall we live as servants of the Lord?

Acts 8:1-3 ESV

1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

To which we might add ...
... in a difficult and trying world.

"Normal" responses to trials:

1. Denial
2. Complaint
3. Self-pity

Romans 5:3-4 ESV

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

Spiritual dynamics of difficulties:
From trials to a test to perseverance to maturity

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Proverbs 2:1-6 NLT

1 My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Rather than act according to the wisdom of God, we're "de-stabilized" by:

1. Guilt
2. Confusion
3. Fear
4. Anger

Why are so many of our trials played out in the context of money? Perhaps because it often functions in our lives as:

1. verification of personal worth

2. security

3. power or advantage over others

Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Matthew 6:24 NLT

24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

"When a Christian's spouse is unfaithful and abandons the marriage, is Christ still worth obeying? When a Christian's financial security is threatened or wrecked, is Christ still worth trusting? When a Christian's physical health is crippled, is Christ still worth adoring? When a Christian's family member is killed, is Christ still worth serving? Even if the Christian loses everything else, is Christ still worth honoring and is the crown of life still worth the perseverance in faith?"