

Home group study 27 June 10

How not to mess up your life – James 1:13-18

Introduction

As we have seen James' letter started by facing the question of how we handle times of trials and suffering. He now turns our attention to temptations. God's purpose is to enable us to be finally blessed in spite of all the varying circumstances of life (v12). He would guide us in His way so that we will not mess up our lives, or our eternal future. Like the rest of the Bible he does not promise us an easy road but does remind us that we can have God's help to overcome.

If we don't have Christ or His Spirit to guide us what will determine how we respond to life, the values we have and the way we behave?
How do we know what Christ would have us do? cp v21 – 22

Read James 1: 13-18

- Where did temptations to do wrong come from (cp *1Jhn2:16*)? Why is this important? What is the process that James says we go through that leads us from being tempted to actually sinning? What kind of things do you think are most difficult to handle?
- What is the outcome of sinning? Cp. How does this apply to us a) in this life - see Ephesians 2:1; Luke 15:24; b) in eternity - Romans 6:23? Do you think we take this seriously enough? If not why not?
- Read *1Corinthians10:13*. What encouragement is there here for us when tempted? When do you think is the best time to resist in the process James outlines in v20-21?
- Is it wrong to be tempted? Read Matthew 4: 1-9. How did Jesus handle temptation? What can we learn from Him & apply to our own lives?
- To whom do we owe anything good in our lives? If God doesn't want us to succumb to temptation what does he want for us? How does James say that comes about? How does that encourage us in our struggles?

Prayer

For individuals not yet Christians

Thank God for the good things you have received in your life.

Sermon outline 20 June 10

How not to mess up your life

James 1:13-18

Be guided by the right values

V22 Do not merely listen to the word, & so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Don't pass the buck

V13 don't say God is tempting me

Deal with it at the root v13-14

- don't let it shoot & bear fruit!

Process (W. Wiersbe):-

- Desire [feelings/instincts]
- Deception [mind/imagination]
- Disobedience [will to act] Cp Adam & Eve
Gen3:5-6

Take sin seriously

V15 full grown, it gives birth to death

Don't be conned, God is

- **always** good
- so is living His way v16-18