

**“The Book of James:
Our Crowns Sit Crooked in a Conflicted World”
James 1:1**

Theme: A tested faith is working a patient steadfastness that can result in a resting trust.

Outline:

I. The Historical Context

A. From Whom:

James [Jacob], half-brother of Jesus, leader of the church in Jerusalem

B. To Whom:

The twelve tribes who were dispersed abroad; Jews, not Gentiles; Messianic Jews living in a hostile, Gentile, Roman ruled country.

C. When:

Although disputed, probably the earliest book in the NT Canon.

II. The Theological Context

James mirrors the Sermon on the Mount. This makes sense based on placement. James sounds more like Jesus than he does Paul in his vocabulary. It is a church in transition.

III. The Structural Context

The pressure from outside the church created conflict inside the church. James call them back to the royal law of liberty, “Love One Another.”

There are three areas of application (1:26, 27)

1. Control *your tongue*.
2. Care for *your neighbor*.
3. **Keep clean** in *your world*.

Now What; Where do we go from here? [Shepherding the Sheep]

1. The call to us, a displaced people, is to hold fast to Christ by living in the church as family.
2. How is your current trial [emotion] impacting what you say and how you say it, what you do relationally for others, and how you walk in the world?