

James/Jonah Class Schedule

10/15/2023	James 5:19-20	Additional Words from James
10/22/2023	James Chp 5	Chp 5 Review
10/29/2023	Jonah 1:1-3	Overview and Call of Jonah
11/5/2023	Jonah 1:4-9	The Great Storm - Jonah Revealed
11/12/2023	Jonah 1:10-17	Jonah Accused - Then the Sea and the Fish
11/19/2023	Jonah 2:1-9	Jonah's Prayer and Deliverance
11/26/2023		no class
12/3/2023	Jonah 3:1-10	The Salvation of Nineveh
12/10/2023	Jonah 4:1-11	The Rebuke of Jonah by God
12/17/2023	Matt 12:39-41	Jonah Contrasted with Christ
12/24/2023		no class
12/31/2023		no class

Today's Verses

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

Who is James addressing in these verses ?

- note: it is the **brethren** - *adelphos* - a brother, or near kinsman; in the plural, “a community based on identity of origin or life.”
- Rom 1:13a I do not want you to be unaware, **brethren**, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far).
- 1st – any among you [a brother] who strays from the truth
- 2nd - the one [a brother] who turns him back
- In verse 14 there was a call for support from the Elders. In this verse we have fellow believers supporting one another.

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The main subject and verb in this sentence:

My brethren let him know

let him know - *ginōskō* - to be taking in knowledge,
to come to know, recognize, understand
(present, imperative, active)

- continuous action in the present
- let him be knowing – Wuest
- James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The “if statement” sets up the condition for this dialogue

- The “if statement” modifies the verb [let him know] in this sentence.

“if statement” is 3rd class - presents the condition as uncertain of fulfillment, but still likely

Two parts to this statement:

part A - any among you strays from the truth

part B - and one turns him back

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

part A - any among you strays from the truth

- from the context the “any among you” is a fellow believer

strays - *planaō* – in the passive voice “to be seduced, go astray” – wandering stars in Jude 1:13

- 2 Peter 2:15 forsaking the right way, they have **gone astray**, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

What are they [the believers] **being led astray from** ?

- The context tell us it is “**the truth.**”

- James previously addressed this topic of **the truth.**

James 1:18

¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by **the word of truth**, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

James 3:14

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against **the truth**.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of **the truth**.

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

part B – and one turns him back

- from the context the “one [who] turns him back” is a fellow believer

turns back - *epistrephō* - to turn about or towards;

to cause to return from error (aorist tense)

- This would be an event that may happen to the one who strays from the truth.
- 1 Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

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- This statement in verse 20 is what the person who is turning one back from error is to know [**let him know!**].
- Why call “**any among you**” that strays from the truth a sinner?
- James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- The believer still sins and he is to confess [agree with God about] his sins.
- Paul calls believers “saints” in 9 of his New Testament letters.

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1st - will save his soul from death

- What kind of death is being spoken of here?
- Spiritual death or Physical death
- Spiritual death (or separation) is seen in many passages – the idea is loss of fellowship.
- Physical death is seen Acts 5:1-11 in the death of Ananias and Sapphira.
- Death (in verse 20) represents the temporal destruction of the person, not his or her eternal damnation. Constable

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

2nd - will cover a multitude of sins

- so, this a turning of a “sinning believer” from error

will cover - *kalyptō* - to envelop, wrap around as bark, skin, shell or plaster, to cover over

- 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love **covers** a multitude of sins.

- What is the process covering a believer's sins?

- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Additional points from last week

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Observations:

- Prayer is God's will during suffering [trials] - James 1:5-6
- Praise is God's will when he is encouraged - Rom 15:4
- **Sick** is literally "without strength" – mental and physical
- Primary reason for calling the Elders is for prayer
- The prayer is to be in the name of the Lord
- **Anointing** is the idea to rub, to daub or smear
- Tangible expression of faith - McCalley
- Oil was one of the most common remedies in Bible times – Luke 10:34, Mark 6:13