



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

**SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA**

**Friday, 7/8/22**

**Scripture: James**

**TITLE: James - Living like Jesus**

Have you ever heard someone accuse another person saying something along the lines of, “you’re all talk”? That's a serious accusation. That is an example of someone getting called out. I take this to mean that a person is saying your actions are inconsistent with your words. You say one thing, and you do another. I don't think anyone wants to be accused of that. Especially as Christians, we want our actions, or the way that we live our lives, to line up with what we say we believe. More than anything we want our lives to line up with what the Bible says.

This whole idea of living out our faith is what the Book of James is all about. Christians should read the book of James because we can learn a great deal about the wisdom of God and how it should transform how we live. We learn about how the Gospel should end the division between people, how the Gospel should give us a heart for those in need, and how the words we say glorify Christ.

This book was written by James the brother of Jesus who was the leader of the first church in Jerusalem. It's clear from the writing that this church had been experiencing a lot of trials and difficulties that were causing division and fighting among them.

Timewise most scholars would agree that this book was written in the mid forty's somewhere between 45 and 49 A.D. Notable people mentioned in this book would be James himself, along with Old Testament figures like Abraham and Job.

It is clear that James studied and loved the words of Jesus as we can hear echoes of Jesus' wisdom and love in every chapter of the book of James. James wants us to not only know about Jesus but begin to live like Jesus.

I believe a key passage in this book is found in James 1:2-4 which says, “[Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.](#)”

These verses touch on the important theme that trials serve a purpose. Our faith being put to the test can make our faith more solid and consistent. Ultimately, we as Christians don't want to be lacking in anything, but in every way we want to look, sound, and live like Jesus himself. That's why when our faith gets tested, we need to ask hard questions like: am I living out my faith? Does the way I treat other people look like the love and compassion of Jesus? What areas of my

heart and my life do I need to let the Holy Spirit work so that my actions can become consistent with what I say I believe.

That is the key takeaway from the book of James. We don't want to just talk about the grace of the Gospel, we want to live it out and show it to the rest of the world! We need to allow ourselves to truly hear the challenging words of James and let them resonate in our hearts. As Christians, we don't want to be "all talk." Through the wisdom and grace of Jesus, we want our lives to look like He is in every way. That's what the book of James is all about.