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James: A Handbook on Holiness

The Range of Trials: Poverty & Riches

James 1:9-11

General outline of chapter 1:

1.

The Way to Holiness: The Divine Perspective 1:2-27

1.

The Trial-Temptation Complex 1:2-18

1.

The Confrontation with Trials 1:2-8

1.

Joy and Trials 1:2-4

2.

Wisdom and Trials 1:5-8

3.

The Range of Trials 1:9-11

1.

The Trial of Poverty 1:9

2.

The Trial of Riches 1:10-11

3.

The Outcome of Trials 1:12-18

1.

Confidence in Trials 1:12

2.

Defeat in Trials 1:13-15

3.

Victory in Trials 1:16-18

James 1:9-11

The Trial of Poverty

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,

The Trial of Riches

10 and the rich in his lowliness,

Reason

because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Discussion Questions:

1.

Read Psalm 49.

2.

V. 9: In what ways is poverty a trial? Prov. 10:15; 14:20

3.

V. 9: In what ways can a "lowly brother" be exalted? Prov. 28:6, 11; 2 Cor. 6:10; 8:9; James 2:5

4.

V. 10: In what ways is being rich a trial? Prov. 13:8

5.

v. 10: In what ways can a rich brother be lowly? Matt. 6:33; Rev. 3:17

6.

V. 11: How does a flower of the grass "pass away?" How long does it take a little flower to die?

7.

V. 11: In what ways can a rich man "fade away" in the midst of his pursuits?

8.

What kinds of boasting are godly? Ps. 34:2; Jer. 9:23-24; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2 Cor. 5:12; 11:30; 12:9

9.

What is the point of the passage--what should both the rich and the poor do? Prov. 22:2