

*James: The Half-Brother of Jesus*

Introduction: Many Christians do not know that Jesus had a half-brother. In fact, the New Testament reveals that Jesus had four brothers: James, Joses (Joseph), Judas and Simon (Mark 6:3, Matthew 13:55). There is a reference to the sisters of Jesus, but they are not named. In the Bible they are not seen as stepbrothers/stepsisters, but they are truly half-brothers/half-sisters because Joseph is the father and Mary is the mother (Luke 2:48-52). What specifically do we know about James? How can we understand the significance of his life? Let's study together...

Discussion:

*I. What Did James Think About Jesus?*

- A. James thought Jesus was contentious (Matthew 12:46-50).
- B. James thought Jesus was confused (Matthew 13:53-58, Mark 6:1-6).
- C. James thought Jesus was complicated (Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, 16:1, Luke 23:27-49, 24:10, John 19:25-27).
- D. James thought Jesus was crazy (Mark 3:20-22).
- E. James thought Jesus was a counterfeit (Luke 1:26-38, 2:48-52, John 2:12, 7:1-13).

*II. What Did Jesus Think About James?*

- A. Jesus thought James' heart was tender (I Corinthians 15:6-7, James 1:1, Jude 1).
- B. Jesus thought James' soul was lost (John 7:5, 8:24, Hebrews 11:6).
- C. Jesus thought James' mind was ready (Matthew 13:53-58, Acts 1:14).
- D. Jesus thought James' strength was wavering (Matthew 13:53-58, Mark 6:1-6, John 2:12, 7:1-13, Acts 9:26-29, Galatians 1:18-29, 2:6-10).
- E. Jesus thought James' ministry was successful (Acts 11:1-18, 12:17, 15:12-21, 21:17-20).

*III. What Do You Think About James?*

- A. James taught about priorities and religion (James 1).
- B. James taught about faith and works (James 2).
- C. James taught about wisdom and the tongue (James 3).
- D. James taught about humility and doing good (James 4).
- E. James taught about living wrong and living right (James 5).

Conclusion: We can choose to remember the James who struggled with Jesus, or we can remember the one who served Jesus, or we can see both views. Write your own story... but let God take the pen. Don't judge people and don't judge yourself too soon. Did James believe? YES!!! Isn't it great that we can have faith in God and that He allows us to be moved to do good works (Matthew 5:16). Praise God that people can change! Praise God that you and I can change! Do you have faith like James? Are you doing good works like James?