



May 18, 2025
Real Wisdom for a Messy World
BOAST PROPERLY
James 1:9-11



1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Have you ever known someone who inherited or, in some other way, unexpectedly acquired a considerable sum of money? If so, what did they initially say about how it would influence their lifestyle? Was their prediction correct as time passed, or did they change unexpectedly? Were the changes for the better?
- b. There is an old TV series, *The Beverly Hillbillies*. What was your reaction to the plot if you've seen the show? Although possibly not intentional, were there positive moral principles being demonstrated?
- c. What is your favorite story about someone who passed up a comfortable life and lived in poverty to serve others (like Mother Teresa)? What moves you about the story?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. **Adoration** – Pray Psalm 95 or another passage of Scripture that enables you to focus on praising God for who He is in all His majesty and glory, the only One worthy of praise.
- b. **Confession** – Spend time in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any sins you need to confess. Keep a paper and pencil handy in case He reminds you of one that requires you to ask forgiveness of someone. Close by reading 1 John 1:9
- c. **Thanksgiving** – In the spirit of Ephesians 5:20, thank God for answered prayers, His blessings and gifts, and the opportunities He provides to serve. Make a point to thank Him for at least one thing that you've never given thanks for before.
- d. **Supplications**
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church
 1. *Locally*: LRBC, its ministries and outreach activities; for our pastors, staff, and volunteers; for the other churches in PWC that faithfully share the Gospel.
 2. *Around the world*: for missionaries and pastors serving in other cultures; for the persecuted Church in countries that are actively hostile to the Gospel; for unreached people groups which have little or no access to the Gospel; that God will raise up works to go and serve Him, perhaps even young people from LRBC.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of
 1. At least one person who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
 2. Friends, family, and yourself
 3. Some items on LRBC's weekly *Praises & Prayer Requests* list.
 4. Our national, state, and local leaders – especially for the salvation of those who have not accepted Christ as Savior.

3. Sermon Key Points for James 1:9-11

- a. Know Exactly Who You Are In Christ!
 - i. Once again, James emphasizes the wisdom of having God's perspective on difficult things
 - ii. In Christ Jesus, you are...
 - 1. New creation
 - 2. Adopted child of God
 - 3. Blood-bought, treasured sibling of Jesus
 - 4. Holy Temple of God
 - 5. God's royal ambassador on earth
 - 6. Chosen royal priest of God
 - 7. Friend of Jesus
- b. When You're Down In the World, Delight In Who You Are In Christ
- c. When You're Up in the World, Delight In Who You Are In Christ
 - i. Only boast in Christ, even if everything's going your way
 - ii. In addition to being exalted, we're also humbled in Christ

4. Bible Study:

- a. ***Sunday Afternoon*** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. ***Monday: Know Exactly Who You Are in Christ!***
 - i. Before diving into the Scripture passage for this week, we will spend some time considering *who we are* if we are in Christ and Jesus is truly our Lord. Start by reading John 3:1-21, John 1:12-13, Romans 10:9-10, and Ephesians 2:4-9.
 - 1. In your own words, what does Jesus mean when He tells Nicodemus of the need to be “born of water and the Spirit”?
 - 2. From these four passages, what is required “to be born again”? What is not required (Ephesians 2:9)? Why?
 - ii. Read these passages that describe who we are in Christ, and for each set of verses answer these three questions: i) If we are in Christ, what do these verses say we are, ii) What does that mean to you, and iii) if you are a Christian how is this reality demonstrated in your life, and any others that follow the verse references:
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15. What is the “old” that has passed away?
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:22, and Philippians 3:9. What is the basis for receiving this characteristic?
 - 3. Romans 8:14-16, John 1:12, Galatians 3:26 & 4:5-6.

4. Romans 8:29. If we are all brothers or sisters of Christ, what does it say about our relationship to one another?

c. **Tuesday:** *Know Exactly Who You Are in Christ!*

- i. Continue reading passages and answering the three questions from yesterday.
 1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 6:19-20. What particular considerations should this characteristic impose on Christians?
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (see also Ephesians 6:19-20). Since this is what we are as Christians, how should it affect our view of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?
 3. 1 Peter 2:5 & 9, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, & 20:6. How would this role relate to Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy 2:1?
 4. John 15:14-15 & Luke 12:4. How does John 15:12-13 set the standard for this characteristic?
 5. Romans 8:17, Galatians 3:29 & 4:7, Ephesians 3:6, and Titus 3:7. What about this aspect of being in Christ makes you want to share with others?
- ii. When you roll up all nine of these characteristics we obtain by *being in Christ*, how do they support and reinforce what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3?

d. **Wednesday:**

- i. Today, read James 1:1-11 and meditate on verses 9-11, this week's focal passage. You will probably find reading these three verses in several modern translations helpful.
 1. How would you explain in your own words what James teaches in these verses?
 2. What one or two words would you use as the topic of the verses?
- ii. What is James's contrast in verses 9 & 10?
 1. We will look at each category more, but for now, what identical action does he command each to perform?
 2. How are "pride" and "boasting" generally viewed, especially by evangelical Christians? Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What does this teach us about boasting? How does it align with what James tells us?

e. **Thursday:**

- i. Refresh your memory by rereading James 1:9-11.
- ii. Who is James addressing in the command of verse 9? If your version uses the term "brothers," see James 2:1, 2:14, and 3:1.
 1. Who are James' brothers? What is their condition or status?
 2. Most modern translations use "lowly" or "humble" in verse 9. Read these verses which use the same Greek word: Psalm 10:18; 18:27; 34:18; 102:17; 138:6; Proverbs 3:34; Amos 2:7; 8:6; Matthew 11:29; Luke 1:52; and 2 Corinthians 7:6; & 10:1. What are the two primary ways in which the word is used? Which one do you think it means in verse 9?

3. In light of who James is writing to (see James 1:1 and consider Acts 8:1), why would they most likely be in this category? How might the situation presented in Acts 11:28-29 have contributed?
- iii. What was the “exaltation” the lowly (humble) brother was to boast about (consider what you learned Monday and Tuesday)?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read James 1:9-11 again.
- ii. Verse 10 can be understood in two different ways depending on who you think James is talking about when he says “the rich”; are they rich believers or rich unbelievers?
 1. James writes about the rich in 2:1-7 and 5:1-6. In these verses, is he referring to believers or unbelievers? What might that imply about “rich” in verse 10?
 2. Jesus also taught about the rich at several points. Consider Matthew 19:23-24, Luke 6:23-24, 16:19-31, and 18:23-24. What do these verses say about the prevailing tendency for the spiritual condition of the rich?
 3. James also writes about Christians who are apparently rich in 4:13-17. How would the message of these verses support the idea that the rich of verse 10 were Christians?
- iii. If the rich were indeed Christians, what is meant by their “humiliation”? How might Jason have been humiliated in this manner in Acts 17:5-9?
- iv. If the rich were unbelievers, then James was being ironic in verse 10. How would you paraphrase verse 10a to make the irony more apparent?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read James 1:1-12
- ii. Regardless of the rich person’s spiritual condition, what will become of their wealth?
 1. Read Isaiah 40:6-8, Psalm 103:5-6, and 49:16-17. Why would these passages, which would have been familiar to the Jewish Christians, make James’ message particularly clear?
 2. How would Jesus’ teachings in the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) and the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) likely have contributed to what James is writing in verses 10-11?
- iii. James begins chapter 1 by writing about trials, and in verse 12 he returns to that topic. How do these three verses about being poor or rich fit into the broader topic of trials?
 1. In what way can being either poor or rich present us with trials?
 2. How does Jesus address this in Matthew 6:24?

5. **Application:** When compared to the rest of the world’s people and to people throughout history, most American Christians would undoubtedly be classified as “rich”. Given what has been studied this week, spend time prayerfully considering which group you fit into and what that would suggest about how you should live. Pray that the Holy Spirit would show you the “exaltation” (“high position”) or the “humiliation” in which you should boast.