

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

James 1:9-11

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→THE BIG IDEA: all of us stand as equals in the midst of trials & troubles

1. WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? James 1:1-8

→Key words have marked our journey so far in our exploration of FAITH + WORKS

- DISPERSED v1
- CONSIDER v2
- JOY v2
- ENDURANCE v3
- PERFECT v4
- ASK v5

→God wants us to fully understand and embrace the value and purpose of the trials and troubles we go through

2. WHERE ARE WE TODAY? James 1:9-11

→2 paradoxes: seemingly contradictory statements:

A. The poor are to boast in their riches

-What is his temptation during trials?

-What is his "high position" or exaltation? cf James 2:5; 1 Pet 1:3-7; Eph 1:1-12

B. The rich are to boast in their poverty

-What is his temptation during trials?

-What is his "low position" or "humiliation"?

→Death also is an equalizer cf Job 7:6, 8:9, 14:1-2; Psa 144:4

3. WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

→Have you adopted God's point of view regarding trials? If not, why not?

→Are you boasting about the right things in your life? If not, why not?

→In which riches are you trusting during trials? Material resources? Or Spiritual ones?

FOR SMALL GROUP STUDY

1. Can you summarize for us what we have learned so far about FAITH+WORKS in our Sunday morning sermon series?

2. What is the most important word in these first eleven verses of James 1?
Why did you pick that word?

3. How do verses 2-11 prepare us for the promise of verse 12?

4. What is the most difficult trial that you've had to endure in your life?
What lesson(s), if any, did you learn through this?

5. How should the fact of the brevity of life impact our view of trials and troubles?

6. What do we learn about God in these eleven verses?

7. What do we learn about us (believers) in these eleven verses?

8. What do we learn about faith in these eleven verses?

9. How might you use these verses to encourage a brother or sister who is going through a time of trials and troubles?