

James and the Sermon on the Mount

Truths for the Valley

The book of *James* is often referred to as the *Proverbs* of the New Testament because of the multiple topics it addresses. A Bible student could spend hours unpacking one verse. But how did James decide what topics to cover? Who was his inspiration? Not surprisingly, Jesus' teaching impacted James greatly. In fact, there is a close resemblance to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*), which also covers a host of topics. Observe the comparisons.

Topics	Sermon on the Mount	James
Trials (i.e., of Persecution)	<i>Matthew 5:10-12</i>	<i>James 1:2, 3, 12; 5:10</i>
Prayer	<i>Matthew 5:44; 6:5-13; 7:7-11</i>	<i>James 1:5; 4:3; 5:13-18</i>
Double Mindedness	<i>Matthew 6:19-24</i>	<i>James 1:8; 2:14-26; 4:8</i>
Uncontrolled Anger	<i>Matthew 5:21, 22</i>	<i>James 1:19, 20; 4:1, 2</i>
Obeying God's Word (Law)	<i>Matthew 5:17-44; 7:24-27</i>	<i>James 1:21-25; 2:12, 13</i>
Pretenders	<i>Matthew 6:1-18</i>	<i>James 1:26, 27</i>
The Royal Law (Golden Rule)	<i>Matthew 7:12</i>	<i>James 2:1-9</i>
Showing Mercy	<i>Matthew 5:7</i>	<i>James 2:13</i>
Faith and Works	<i>Matthew 7:15-23</i>	<i>James 2:14-26; 3:11, 12</i>
Godly Wisdom	<i>Matthew 7:24</i>	<i>James 1:5, 21-25; 3:13-18</i>
Peacemakers	<i>Matthew 5:9</i>	<i>James 3:17, 18</i>
Judging Others	<i>Matthew 7:1-5</i>	<i>James 4:11, 12</i>
Making Oaths	<i>Matthew 5:33-37</i>	<i>James 5:12</i>

Trials (i.e., of Persecution)

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness... Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great..." *Matthew 5:10-12*

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." *James 1:2, 3*

Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." *Matthew 5:9*

"The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy... And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." *James 3:17, 18*

