

**Comparisons and Contrasts Between the Epistle of James
and the Teachings of Jesus in the Gospels**

Theme	James (Epistle)	Gospels (Words of Jesus)
Joy in Trials	"Count it all joy... when you meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:2)	"Blessed are you when others revile you... Rejoice and be glad..." (Matt. 5:11-12)
Hearing and Doing	"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22)	"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them..." (Matt. 7:24-27)
Blessed in Perseverance	"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial" (James 1:12)	"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" (Matt. 5:10)
Condemnation of Anger	"The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:20)	"Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment" (Matt. 5:22)
Care for the Needy	"Religion that is pure... is to visit orphans and widows" (James 1:27)	"Whatever you did for the least of these... you did for me" (Matt. 25:40)
Avoiding Partiality	"Show no partiality... if you show partiality, you commit sin" (James 2:1-4, 9)	"Blessed are the poor in spirit..." (Matt. 5:3) and "The last will be first" (Matt. 20:16)
Faith and Works	"Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17)	"Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord'... but the one who does the will of my Father" (Matt. 7:21)
Controlling the Tongue	"No human being can tame the tongue" (James 3:8)	"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34-37)
Peacemakers	"A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18)	"Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9)
Warning Against Wealth	"Come now, you rich, weep and howl..." (James 5:1-6)	"Woe to you who are rich..." (Luke 6:24) and "Do not store up treasures on earth" (Matt. 6:19)

Theme	James (Epistle)	Gospels (Words of Jesus)
Do Not Swear Oaths	"Do not swear... but let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no" (James 5:12)	"Do not swear at all... Let what you say be simply 'yes' or 'no'" (Matt. 5:34-37)
Patience and Endurance	"Be patient... until the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7-8)	"By your endurance you will gain your lives" (Luke 21:19)
Humility	"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6)	"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt. 23:12)
Judging Others	"Do not speak evil against one another" (James 4:11)	"Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matt. 7:1)
Trust in God's Will	"If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15)	"Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42)
Warning Against Selfish Ambition	"Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder" (James 3:16)	"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26)
Compassion and Mercy	"Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13)	"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matt. 5:7)
Asking in Faith	"Let him ask in faith, with no doubting" (James 1:6)	"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it" (Mark 11:24)

Contrasts Between James in Acts and the Epistle of James

Theme	Jerusalem James (Acts)	James (Epistle)	Contrast
Focus on Law and Tradition	Emphasizes adherence to Mosaic Law (Acts 15:19-21)	Focuses on practical ethics and wisdom (James 1-5)	Shift from ritual law to moral behavior.
Role in Community	Acts as a leader making communal decisions (Acts 15)	Speaks as a moral teacher to dispersed believers	From authoritative leadership to pastoral counsel.
Tone and Style	Diplomatic and collective in addressing controversies	Direct and personal, often confronting issues	Diplomatic vs. confrontational tone.
Mention of Jesus	Minimal direct mention of Jesus (Acts 15)	Frequent implicit references to Jesus' teachings	Explicit teachings reflected more in Epistle.