

James 25-06-01b

Let's resume our study now in James chapter 1. We're looking at verses 9 through 12 Let the lowly brother we know now that this Status of lowliness isn't a happenstance. We're not a victim of circumstances. We haven't been Oppressed into lowliness.

We haven't been cut down or pushed into a low place This is a choice This is a conscious Adopting of an attitude that characterized the Lord Jesus who described himself with this adjective and We follow him in dedication to something higher than ourselves Something that is a part of God's plan and purpose Knowing that if there is going to be any Exaltation if there is going to be any virtue or any praise Let it come from God not my ambition not my purpose my plan my Desire what I think will gratify me and make me happy So Let the lowly brother glory the word glory here is from cow Kami Yeah, I could spell it for you, but it's complex in Greek It is a word that is generally translated to boast to boast What is the nature of? boasting The General use of this word is in a negative sense. I Think the best English equivalent of this is to exalt ex ULT Exaltation and Many times if someone accomplishes their own purpose or their own goal Something they have set as a finish line for themselves. There is Exaltation in my accomplishment.

This is how it is used in Ephesians 2 9 Salvation by grace through faith is not of works. It isn't of human origination this deliverance seemingly impossible is a miracle work of God an expression of his grace and his amazing divine omnipotence to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to our reconciliation our Salvation as lost and fallen creatures God has found a way to save us at a tremendous cost to himself the cost of the precious blood of Christ, that's what it took to save us and The worst thing in the world would be for someone to think I can earn salvation by my works of righteousness Not by works of righteousness, which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us We didn't earn it we don't deserve it our Salvation that is made possible by God's grace on the condition of faith of acceptance of placing our trust and confidence in the work of the Lord Jesus not in our own is Not of human origination No scripture is of any private origination or interpretation as Peter says men were moved by God's Spirit to communicate these truths Scripture didn't come from the mind of man and that is so important when you come to books like the Revelation where people want to say John the Revelator John the author of this saw that people were falling into Roman culture and the Greek depravity and he wanted to encourage them out of it So he decided to write this allegory the way Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress to try to encourage people to not fall into the ways of the Roman world And and this is all John's methods and John's ideas Blasphemy Revelation is a revelation from God It is the revelation of Jesus Christ himself and to dismiss it as sort of a phantasm of Oracle writing by this unknown John who wasn't an apostle and just had a Desire that people straighten up and fly right is an abomination but book after book the common interpretation now is that John was talking about his day and he Expected the Roman Empire to fall expected Jerusalem to fall etc. And it's all in the past.

It's preterist. There's no People who have a future expectation of rapture or kingdom or anything else are hugely misguided and They are not reading revelation rightly. That's the title of one book or Revelation for the rest of us those who aren't in the group of the false and damaging dispensationalist framework It is the devil's own lie and he is roaming the earth seeking who may he may devour and to Obviate and take off the radar and out of the minds and hearts of believers the essential truths that are found in that book so What is boasting to exalt self-exaltation? I have it figured out I am Wise I know what's best.

I know what's proper. I know what God's will is I know what ought to happen This exalting in one's own accomplishments or one's own perspective Is the pride that goes before a fall and the haughty spirit that precedes destruction this however is Understood in context Paul the Apostle says I will boast in Christ I will boast in The accomplishments of God I will exalt in God's work in God's grace and we can exalt properly and gloriously in What God does? the damage the sin in Exaltation is not in the exalting it is What are you exalting it in the same way the faith in and of itself is neither good nor bad? What are you placing your faith in? Curse is the man who places his faith in man and makes flesh his strength his arm whose heart has departed from the Lord He's going to be Like a shrub in the desert. He is not going to see good when it comes Because his heart departed and he placed his faith in a faulty object faith rightly aimed Faith in the Lord Jesus faith in the work of God through Christ is a Wonderful thing same thing with exaltation, so what is a healthy proper righteous? exaltation let The brother who understands true humility and What they used to call? Yieldedness to the plan and purpose of God Not my will but thine be done.

That is the ultimate expression of the Lord Jesus lowliness and gentleness of heart submission to the will of the Father Recognizing God's plan is better than my plan God's way is better than my way if I find myself Not appreciated not exalted not promoted not well understood. That's okay God will Exalt us in due time God will promote us in his time in his way at the right place with the right purpose So let the lowly brother boast They're trying to soften the idea of boasting of exalting Remember earlier when he used the hegemon word and he said count it joy account it joy when testing and challenge comes of Various kinds This is another kind of accounting This is an occasion when I find that I'm not promoted. I'm not appreciated.

I am NOT well understood I Am Look at the Lord Jesus was he well understood by most of the people especially the religious leadership who were pronouncing judgment on him and saying he was a bad actor and needed to be eliminated ultimately they achieved the goal of executing him having him killed and He's the Lord of Glory. He came selflessly to be the Savior and This is the thanks he gets We often can Focus on ourselves and a sense of injustice This isn't fair. It's not right.

It isn't what I deserve The humble the Typanos brother Rather than focusing on the humbleness of the moment the rejection of the moment the disappointment of the moment the the holding down and keeping back of the moment chooses rather to exalt You know what's going to make me happy. You know what I'm going to count as joy is Exaltation Let him

exult in his exaltation Where is this exaltation by definition? He's Typanos The lowly brother is down Not promoted not powerful not appreciated not this not that not the other by definition He's lowly. He's in a state of humbleness or humiliation He Chooses remember when it says the Lord Jesus who for the joy that was set before him endured the injustice of the cross and He didn't let the shame of it the disappointment of it the exasperation of it get to him.

He despised the shame For the joy that was set before him and where is he now he has been exalted to the right hand of the father He wasn't exalted During his earthly ministry he was despised and rejected of men He was shamefully treated Spit on had his beard pulled out beaten flogged Tortured and then hung on a cross to die He didn't focus on that He could have called 10,000 angels do you not know He says during the arrest I could talk to my father and legions of angels would come to my rescue I Choose not to look at this current bad situation and demand a remedy I'm looking ahead Momentary light affliction is working an eternal weight of glory We have to have this mind in us that was in Christ Jesus, that's how Philippians 2 begins Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus be the lowly brother who exalts who glories Now in a state of humiliation in a coming Exaltation how do I know it's a coming exaltation because of this chiastic structure to fully understand this verse We've got to go to verse 12 What is verse 12 say? This man who is tested specifically tested in the area of oppression of humiliation of humbleness of not having power not having control not having their own personal gratification being met Blessed is the man who endures Who maintains focus who maintains attitude who focuses on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith? Who accounts it joy to be tested? remember The man who endures temptation this goes all the way back to verse 2 Enduring a trial trials are not typically viewed as fair or fun It's a hardship many times we are tested worst by injustice by false accusation by Maltreatment by neglect or active sin against us on the part of others Blessed is the one man here of course is any of us Half of the human race is ladies, and this isn't just the men Blessed is the one the human man or woman who Bears up under who endures this test this challenge What was the answer back in verse 3? When a various kinds of trial occur, what is the answer we know something? Knowing that there is a reason a purpose and value that God is working this together for good. We know something What is it that the humble brother knows? in verse 12 The humble brother, and that's who this is talking about it is symmetrical with verse 9 the humble brother who exults in His time of humility who appreciates it who thanks God for it Thank you for this test. Thank you for this challenge I know this test is working patience for me This is in the context of our preceding verses, and what does he know how is he able to exult in this time of? Hardship this time of oppression this time when he is down and staying down How does he do it? He endures and he's going to be blessed why? When he has been approved Testing for the purpose of approval doki mazo I am suggesting Subjecting this to a test.

I want to be sure that if I step on this board It's going to hold my weight and not crack Once I have tested it, and I approve it now I can use it if I test it and it breaks under pressure. I'm gonna have to toss that board away and find another the one who holds up under testing Endures temptation is how it says it here, but this is you're tested It's not fair many people

would say it's not right I don't care God has allowed this God is in his heaven God is my father the Lord Jesus is my Savior He is my example. I am going to endure.

I'm going to hold up I'm going to exult that God counts me worthy to be tested If he takes one look at me It says that boards never going to hold up look at all the knots in it look at the cracks I'm not even going to try testing that one. It'll never hold up God counts me worthy To be tested this looks like it might work. Let me test it and be sure looky here.

I've tested it I approve this I put my stamp upon it This is ready for use If you ever gotten a thing there's dozens of things you get and it says inspected by and there's a little signature Somebody tested it and said yep when I plug it in it lights up when I turn it on It works. I put my sticker on it Blessed is the one who endures testing for when he is approved You're tested and you pass look at that the injustice of it the unfairness of it the criminality of it the Wrongfulness of it, but you know what I counted it as a cause for celebration like it says earlier I'm going to wait for Exaltation What is that exaltation tells us in verse 12 when he has been approved he will receive the crown of life The crown of life does that sound familiar at all Do you remember in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 verse 6 which we covered just weeks back 2nd Timothy 4 6 through 8 Paul says I'm being poured out as a drink offering The abuse and the hardship that Paul suffered in many cases was at the hands of misguided and nefarious and even evil people I'm being poured out as a drink offering the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight I have finished the race.

I have kept the faith. I have been tested and I have been approved Be diligent to show yourself approved unto God a workman that does not need to be ashamed Because you are hewing to the straight line of the word of truth Be diligent study to show yourself approved I Have fought the good fight we ought to be able to look at ourselves and say, you know what I passed that test It wasn't easy wasn't fair people failed I've been a victim but you know what I Chose to view it as from God as for my good I'm going to endeavor to maintain and proliferate the fruit of the Spirit in this testing situation I Have fought the good fight. I finished the race.

I have kept the faith at the end in the final moment finally Finally means when all is said and done There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness It is a reward that is future. I Know it's coming and my faith makes it just as real as if I could see it and hold it in my hands The crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge Will award to me will give me on that day that final day Not only to me but to all those who have loved his appearing who have looked forward to his appearing have Anticipated have exulted in it in times of hardship May be tough now, but the Lord Jesus is coming and when he comes I will be approved. I Will not be ashamed in that day.

I Will be one of those who by faith and patience inherits these promises The overcomer promises of Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3 the crown of righteousness the crown of life the crown of glory so Blessed verse 12 James 1 is the one who endures temptation When he has been approved he will receive the crown of life Which the Lord has promised? How real is the

promise do you believe the promise do you place your faith in the promise? The Lord has promised to those who love him What's the difference in loving him and loving his appearing if you love someone? You love it when they show up, right? when they appear There she is there. He is there they are Oh Joyous reunion If you love his appearing you love him if you love him you love his appearing. I don't see a great distance I don't see daylight between the crown of righteousness and the crown of life Those who are willing to endure with great patience Testing and hardship Do it by banking on the future investing in the future when the Lord Jesus comes back this is all going to vanish and I will receive from his hand the Visible sign of his approval a crown is visible.

It's not the sandal of righteousness It's not the anklet of life It's a crown it's on your head. Nobody can see you without seeing it. It is the visible sign of God's approval reward Designation of those who inherit the promises That crown is the sign.

I've got an estate. I've got tangible rewards I've got opportunities for Service and function in the ages to come Because I took God at his word and I didn't let the hardship get me down however Unfair it may seem however difficult it may appear What sustains me is the reality of the promise of God if I am faithful if I remain humble I Accept my lowliness for now because it is going to result in exaltation later That's divine power I Asked God for the wisdom to negotiate these humble circumstances To maintain my humility to not get distracted to not be deflected to not let emotion run away with me to not let Rationalizations or the ways of the world trip me up Blessed is the man blessed is the lowly brother Who exalts in his future exaltation? What is that exaltation crown of life? Given by the Lord to those who love him It is a reciprocation Can you imagine we think about one another love in the sphere of believers with whom we can have? reciprocal spiritual fellowship Think about one another love with God himself with the Lord Jesus himself We love him He first loved us Those who love him and love his appearing He is going to be able to express his love back in meaningful productive and God glorifying ways It's just an incredible thing It's one thing to say well the lowly brother. He just needs to be glad that he's exalted He's saved it.

He's got pie in the sky by and by there is Specificity to this promise it is the crown of life. I Endure because I love Christ Not because I'm happy with people not because I think this is gaining me something in the present. I love the Lord I know he has allowed this Circumstance this condition this situation, and I'm not getting up on my eye horse about it I Will be exalted he doesn't say let the lowly man glory in his lowliness Let him glory in the fact that this is a momentary light affliction, and it is working for me an eternal weight of glory Verse 12 what is the contrast? In the beginning in the ending you have the hopeful side.

This is the productive side. This is the lowly brother Ultimately ruling and reigning with Christ enjoying these wonderful benefits wearing with Exaltation the crown of life that is a celebration and a reflection of the glory of God and the glory of the Lord Jesus What a privilege to wear an ornament that reflects his glory. It's like a wedding ring To me a wedding ring is a celebration of the person it represents I've got a wedding ring on my hand because I'm married to a

wonderful woman and If somebody says oh, I see you're married.

I can say let me tell you about my wife. I love her It is a symbol that invokes the presence and the wonderful attributes of another person It wouldn't be meaningful if there weren't a person attached to it. It's not about the ring It's about the person it represents right that's what the crown of righteousness and the crown of life is Christ has been made to us Righteousness and peace and sanctification a crown of righteousness is a crown of Christ It's a reflection of his glory What's the contrast? What is the opposite look at verses 10 and 11? The lowly brother should glory in his exaltation but the rich ought to exult in his humiliation Because as a flower of the field he will pass away Let your celebration be turned to shame let your exaltation be turned to weeping and wailing The rich should focus on his coming humiliation his demotion Because as a flower of the field he will pass away notice his momentary Exaltation his riches this is plucious by the way PLOU si OS as Opposed to Taipeinos the opposite the contrast is fullness as A flower of the field he will pass away Do you want momentary wealth Momentary riches or do you want a crown that will never be taken from you will never cease to reflect the glory of God? It is a gift from God never to be removed never to be taken away never to be lost Or would you rather have like a flower that is here today and gone tomorrow? These riches as a flower of the field he will pass away It doesn't say his riches will pass away.

He himself will pass away He doesn't have an eternal benefit from his current riches Verse 11 for no sooner has the Sun risen with a burning heat Remember the Sun of righteousness is going to arise with healing in his wings When the Sun appears you can spell it su n or s o n when he appears The burning heat remember the opening verses of Revelation when John sees the Lord Jesus He hears a voice and he turns and here is the Lord Jesus in a flame of fire Can't even see his face for the brightness his burnished feet are reflecting the flames of judgment of purification that which can't take the heat is going to disappear a crown of life and a crown of righteousness is unaffected by the fire of judgment, but a flower You don't have to wait for a flower to wilt from age or eventual loss of Nourishment and moisture from the soil let a big hot burning Sun hit it and It'll wither and the fire can consume it in seconds No sooner has the Sun risen with a burning heat Then it withers the grass I've often compared the Idea of of Choice people who want to talk about predestination and God hardening people's hearts and so on What happens when you're exposed to the glory of God? What happens to things when they are exposed to the heat of the Sun if you are? wax If you choose to be pliable and amenable heat will soften you heat makes you pliable I had a Rubber strip that I wanted to put down on the concrete under my garage door to stop water from blowing underneath in the storms And it came coiled up in a box from Amazon so when I uncoil at the end is real curly and it wants to stay curly I try to Step on it and flatten it out. It just curls right back up. What did I do? I got a heat gun and I exposed it to heat and In the heat of the heat gun it suddenly loses that tendency to curl and flattened right out and was easy to glue down and Maintain the shape that I wanted it to have because it responded to heat in a positive way it It abandoned its will to curl and obeyed my will to lay flat That's what happens in the presence of heat on the other hand if you are adobe clay What happens in the heat of the Sun? You become rigid you become brick

like There are many substances that are cured in the presence of heat talk to a potter about what happens to the clay in the kiln It changes from something that is malleable and workable to something that is brittle and will not yield It will only break Are we Pliable in the presence of the Sun or are we rigid and inflexible and are we hardened in his presence? We choose we decide The rich is like a flower of the field that passes away because the heat of the Sun which will eventually come Creates a burning heat and it withers the grass its flower falls and it's beautiful appearance perishes and that flower doesn't come back in In the darkness of night and the moisture of the dew it doesn't Unwither it doesn't recover it doesn't once again bloom and become beautiful and fragrant It is forever destroyed at the appearance of the heat of the Sun So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits It isn't just his riches and it just isn't just his pursuits Notice his pursuits are his goals his purposes what he thinks is beneficial what he thinks ought to happen Then he'll use his whatever assets he has at his disposal to try to bring them about it will perish He will perish he is no longer on the scene.

He is no longer in the picture and this notion of Depending on riches is throughout the Bible We could go to the passages, but you're familiar with this. You know what this means We have to either Accept our current humiliation as the Lord Jesus did Philippians chapter 2 Did not Think the justice of maintaining his equality was the thing to be held on to Equality with God he humbled himself took on the form of a servant came in the likeness of men what a demotion What an unfair? happenstance for him Being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself He type a no fro soon aid himself He became type a nos I am lowly and gentle Gentle lowly in heart We follow the example of the Lord Jesus And we are blessed We endure hardship we endure the temptation to try to Follow the pattern of the rich the one who pursues his own way and his own purpose Crown of life promised those who love the Lord Jesus enough to endure hardship to be patient You have need of patience so that after you have suffered a while short period You receive the promises you inherit and That inheritance is eternal kept in heaven eternal and undefiled Reserved for the faithful reserved for those who love the Lord enough to trust him for comfort and encouragement in times of Humiliation That's James chapter 1 verses 9 through 12. What an encouragement.

What an opportunity to by God's grace convert hardship into eternal capital eternal opportunity eternal Approval by God when he is approved Be diligent to show yourself approved unto God a Workman who has no need to be ashamed depending on the straight course of bricks Found in the Word of Truth you lay a straight course you don't deviate to the left. You don't deviate to the right It's a matter of faith. It's a matter of patience.

It's a matter of Celebrating the occasion to be found worthy to suffer for his name Remember the Apostles who were imprisoned Celebrated that they were counted worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ What an Inhuman response that is that is the grace of God that's the presence and the comfort of the Holy Spirit to give us a Divine perspective on hardship and rejection and difficulty and injustice What an opportunity well something to reflect upon we'll pick up here in James chapter 1 next time But we'll close here in a word of prayer Father we are so grateful for the privilege of being in Christ of Representing him and endeavoring to follow in his footsteps

in this life For the joy that is set before us to endure hardship knowing the Promises will be fulfilled on the day of his return. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will Impress these truths on our hearts help us to remember them and apply them in the hours and days ahead We ask it in Jesus name. Amen