Lesson 18 James 1:1-12

Turning Trials Into Triumphs

1. A. Who was James? See Matt. 4:18-22?

(Matthew 4:18-22)

18 As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

19 He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them,

22 and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

 B. To whom did he write?

2. What are four essential elements for victory in trials?

3. Why is it important not to retreat in the midst of conflict or trials? How can we prepare ourselves?

4. A. Read verse 8. Who is the "double-minded" person?

5But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.

6 But he should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways.

 B. What effect does double-mindedness have on prayer?

5. A. If you ask for wisdom (vs. 5-8), how long do you think it might take for that prayer to be answered?

 B. Why do you think someone might not want God's wisdom?

 C. For what are we really asking?

6. How might trials expose our need for God's wisdom?

7. Challenge Question: In vs. 9&10, who are the poor and rich?

 9 The brother in lowly circumstances should take pride in his high standing,

10 and the rich one in his lowliness, for he will pass away “like the flower of the field.

11 For the sun comes up with its scorching heat and dries up the grass, its flower droops, and the beauty of its appearance vanishes. So will the rich person fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

8. What is "low" about a rich persons' position (vs. 9&10)?

9. A. What do verses 9-11 mean to you?

 B. What then should you take pride in?

10. What relationship do you see between enduring trials and temptation and loving the Lord (vs. 12)?

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.