

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY!!!

PART 3

JAMES CH5:19-20

BIBLE TRIVIA!

There are **929 chapters in the Old Testament** and there are **260 chapters in the New Testament**. This gives a total of **1,189 chapters**. **Psalm 117**, the shortest chapter, is also the middle chapter of the Bible, being **the 595th chapter**.

There are **23,145 verses in the Old Testament** and **7,957 verses in the New Testament**. This gives a total of **31,102 verses**. **Psalm 103:1–2 being the 15,551st and 15,552nd verses** is in the middle of the 31,102 verses of the Bible.

Psalm 118 is the central chapter in that there are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. **Psalm 118:8** is the central verse of all the verses of the Old & New testaments combined. **Psalm 118:8, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man”**.

1. WHAT IS THE READING?

Explain that we will read from **James Ch5:19-20!**

Explain who James is, who he is writing to and why.

Ask a person to pray!

Ask someone to read the passage!

Ask everyone what is happening?

V19

My Brothers! - Whenever James had something difficult to say to the Christians he used a term over and over again filled with warmth, care and intent, revealing the vital relationship between preacher and congregation - **“adelphoi mou” - my brothers and sisters, or the variant “adelphoi mou agapetoi - my beloved brothers and sisters**, which comes through the lips straight from the heart (Ch1:2, 16, 19; Ch2:1, 5, 14; Ch3:1; Ch5:7, 9, 10, 12, 19 = 12 times in total).

Wanders from the truth - This happens when Christians have struggles and find it really hard to obey Jesus, so they can walk away from Jesus and Jesus' Church. The phrase “Wanders from the truth”, means that someone stops obeying and perhaps even believing in the “word of truth”, the Bible! This can happen, especially when people find it hard to trust and obey Jesus!

Bring Him Back - When someone “wanders” from Jesus, Jesus wants Christians to go after the person and to help bring him back to Jesus! How can we do this?

- By praying for them!
- By keeping a friendship and relationship, with them!
- By inviting them to Church!
- By speaking God's Word to them!

V20

Multitude of sins - When we are used by Jesus to help bring people back to him, it can help with their sins being forgiven! Usually, when we have times away from Jesus, not wanting to listen or obey Him, we tend to sin more greatly!

2. WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT? (Hopefully facilitated by parents/carers)

- We can trust God for all things.
- James used a term filled with warmth and kindness when he tough things to say!
- Jesus wants us to bring people back to Him, should they wander from Him and His truth!
- When we are used to help bring people back to Jesus, it helps cover a multitude of sins!
- When we don't want to listen or obey Jesus we can sin more greatly!

3. WHAT CAN WE PUT INTO PRACTICE?

- Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour in our hearts!
- To pray for people who struggle listening and obeying Jesus.
- Always keep an eye out for your Christian friends!
- Remember your “bank” cards?
- Pray for one another, ALWAYS!