

Reconnecting with the Resurrected Christ –From Lunatic to Lord

James 1:1-8

 1 Corinthians 15:3–7 (NIV) “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then He appeared to James...”

James: A brother from the same mother.

 Matthew 13:54–56 (NIV) “Coming to His hometown, He began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. ⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t His mother’s name Mary, and aren’t His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren’t all His sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

 Mark 3:21 (NIV) “When His family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

 John 7:5 (NIV) “For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.”

James: A brother with the same Father.

 James 1:1 (NIV) “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.”

The Truth about Trouble

1. Trouble is inevitable.

 James 1:2 (NIV) “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

 1 Peter 4:12–13 (NLT) “Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something STRANGE were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world.”

2. Trouble has a purpose.

 James 1:2–4 (NIV) “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

 Romans 5:3–5 (NIV) “...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”

3. Trouble can confuse us.

 James 1:5 (NIV) “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

 James 4:2b (NIV) “You do not have, because you do not ask God.”

4. Trouble will test our trust.

 James 1:6–8 (NIV) “But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”

 John 16:33 (NIV) “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Digging Deeper: Do you feel overwhelmed by your troubles? Have you been trying to handle your troubles alone? What does God want to teach you about Himself through the troubles that you’re facing? Have your troubles caused you to doubt God? What have you learned from troubles that you could not have learned had you not gone through them? How are you playing the hand dealt to you?

