



Lesson 12: Restoring the Fallen (5:19-20)

The end of James 5 is filled with all sorts of instruction for those who would minister wisely within the congregation.

- V. 13 – Deals with those who are suffering and the answer for the suffering is _____
- V. 14 – Deals with those who are _____ and the answer for the _____ is _____
- V. 16 – Deals with those who are _____ and the answer for the _____ is _____
- V. 19 – Deals with those who are _____ and the answer for the _____ is _____

As we come to the close of James we see an emphasis being placed on restoring those who wander from the truth. All through this book James has been concerned with authentic and real faith. Now, James challenges his readers to stand up boldly and confront the drifters. It is the responsibility of every believer to restore the fallen. There will always be those who have fallen spiritually and need help.

RECOGNIZING THE _____ OF THE STRAYING

“*Err*” in this verse comes from the Greek *planetos* and pictures a _____ body within the galaxy. In this passage it is referring to someone who is wandering within the church assembly.

- A. It is possible to stray _____
There are those who have no outward demonstration of any inward _____. The Bible makes it very clear that the believer will respond with a changed life and lifestyle. This text is not speaking of the needs of the unbeliever but the needs of the wandering _____.
- B. It is possible to stray _____
It appears in our text that the man has erred from the right because he had erred from the right believing. When truth is dominant morality and holiness are abundant; but when error comes to the front godly living retreats in shame.

RESPONDING TO THE _____ TO MINISTER TO THE STRAYING

“*Convert*” simply means that they were going in one direction and now they have _____. There is conversion to eternal life and there is conversion also to right living.

- A. Ministry to the straying will require _____
Wisdom in all things but wisdom particularity in this task.
- B. Ministry to the straying will require _____
You can do nothing to convert souls till God’s eternal spirit takes you in hand; but then he can do wonders by you and use you to glorify Himself.
- C. Ministry to the straying will require _____
The purity of Christ’s body is more important than the membership role. If you love your brothers and sisters in Christ you will _____ them in a Christlike and loving way.

RECEIVING THE _____ AS YOU MINISTER TO THE STRAYING

- A. A life can be _____
“*A soul is saved from death.*” God will convict, God will judge and the victory is that a soul may be saved from death.
- B. A sin can be _____
“*Shall hide a multitude of sins.*” Hiding a multitude of sins is what sanctified congregations do.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The pathology of a drifter is all too familiar. It starts with less frequent attendance at church. Perhaps they begin to miss youth group regularly. Eventually a statement is made that goes something like this, “I’m going to be fed spiritually *there*.” And so we assume, “They are going *there* so I won’t bother them.” But the truth is there not going anywhere!

Perhaps you can even think of names right now of people in your own life who have drifted away from the Lord. There may even be some in this room right now I fear who have already begun drifting down this awful path

There are those round about us who have fallen and need help getting up. Someone needs to go to them and say, “*What does thou here _____!?*”