Let God Build You

James 1:1-8

Introduction

An unfinished house on the side of the road

James gets to the heart of Jesus wanted to build us in His image.

James pulls from the Sermon of the Mount and the book of Proverbs to create a masterpiece of truth.

The book of James is a punch in the gut.

James gets up in your business.

In the first chapter of this letter he talks about the circumstances the scattered were in and how to wisely embrace what God is doing.

Verses 1-2 In Trials Have Joy

- 1. The scattered abroad
- 2. They were in great trials.
- 3. He calls them to do the impossible and unthinkable
- 4. Have joy in temptation
- 5. Temptation = trials
- 6. Three types of trials:
 - Trials of Reaping
 - Trials of Persecution
 - Trials of Mystery
- 7. Job
- 8. When you face trials

Verse 3 In Trials Have Faith

- 1. In trials have faith
- 2. Christians live on promises
- 3. Faith works patience=endurance
- 4. Patience is the basis for joy
- 5. Patience perseveres in increasing pressures

Verse 4 Let Trials Build You

- 1. God wants to work on you
- 2. God uses trials to perfect you
- 3. "Perfect" means to mature and to complete
- 4. Matthew 5:48 Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect

Verses 5-8 In Trials Seek Wisdom

- 1. Ask for wisdom
- 2. God liberally wants to give it to you
- 3. Wisdom is seeing things through the eyes of Jesus
- 4. Solomon
- 5. Do not waver
- 6. Verse 6 Double-minded = can't stay focused
- 7. Can't stay on the path
- 8. They are unstable in all their ways
- 9. Must be single-minded = focused on the goal
- 10. Mark 8:34 Take up your cross and follow
- 11. Once you put your hand to the plow you can't look back
- 12. Hebrews 12:1-2 Cast away all weights
- 13. We have a responsibility to walk in wisdom in our trials

- 14. Have a single target in sight
- 15. Jesus is the bulls-eye
- 16. Shooting a gun

Conclusion

- 1. When trials come have joy
- 2. When trials come trust God by faith
- 3. When trials come let God do His work
- 4. When trials come ask God for wisdom.

Challenge

- 1. Are you in a trial right now?
- 2. How are you handling that trial?
- 3. Are you double-minded and unstable
- 4. Let God perfect you into His image.
- 5. How is the renovation going inside of you?