

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“When Lust Has Conceived”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 1:13-15

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8.** We continue today in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #5. I have titled today’s message *“When Lust Has Conceived”* (1:15).
-) *“It’s not my fault.”* Have you ever said that or have you ever heard someone else saying that? Back in GEN 3:12, Adam says to God, *“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”* In other words *“It’s not my fault. God, it’s Your fault”* The next verse, GEN 3:13, Eve says this to God, *“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”* In other words *“It’s not my fault. The devil made me do it.”*
-) The first two human beings to walk the face of this earth were very good at pointing fingers and blaming someone else for their sinful failures. Today we will look at God’s relationship to sin and also look at the human condition of how we blame others for our sin. In a later message we will look specifically at how we blame the devil for our sin (that is what Eve did).
-) I believe that 21st century Americans, especially here in 2022, have perfected the blame game. And it’s getting worse. *“It’s not my fault!”* No matter what happens, there is always someone or something else to blame.
-) We blame the gun for killing a human being when in reality it required a human being to pull the trigger. We seldom blame the knife or the rock or the automobile or the pieces purchased to build the bomb for killing a human being. It’s not my fault.

-) We blame our parents for our dysfunctionality because, after all, they were dysfunctional too and they raised me in that environment. *“This is the way my dad was, so this is the way that I am too. It’s not my fault.”*
-) We have the freedom to riot and smash and grab whenever we want because certain political interest groups or certain racial hate groups have caused me to do this. *“If people could just be more loving and more tolerant, and if they would just think just like I do, I wouldn’t be doing this. It’s not my fault.”*
-) We disavow our Christian beliefs and abandon our professed faith and blame the school system. *“For sure my teachers and college professors know so much more than my pastor knows or what my old-fashioned parents know. It’s not my fault I no longer believe in Christianity. My parents wanted me to further my education. Blame them for sending me to this school.”*
-) We blame the media. *“That’s what they said, so that’s what I believe and that’s what I’ll do. It’s not my fault. They told me to do it.”*
-) We blame our place of employment. *“You know, I would have NEVER had as adulterous affair with that woman if my boss would not have moved HER into my office area. It’s not my fault. It’s his. He brought her here.”*
-) We have become a generation of sheep who question nothing, we fall for anything, and because too many people have turned into sheople (sheep people) we have become masters at pointing fingers at others for our sinful words and actions. We no longer take any responsibility. We never take the blame because it’s not our fault for what we do. Is it?
-) **SLIDE 9**. James is telling us differently. Let’s look at the truths we need to unpack here this morning. JAMES 1:13.
-) This text is pretty straightforward. God cannot sin and He will never cause you or me to sin.

-) **SLIDE 10.** God cannot **TEMPT** you or **CAUSE** you to sin. It is not part of God's nature to do so. What was Adam's response when God questioned him about his disobedience? Who did Adam blame? He blamed God.
-) It's easy to blame God and it's easy to blame others for our sinful actions. Why? Because it's the human condition. It's not my fault. But how does James conclude today's text?
-) **SLIDE 11.** JAMES 1:14-15. In this text, James never places the blame on God for our sin. In this text, James never places the blame on the devil for our sin. Again that's a message later on in this study. Who is to blame for our sin? We are.
-) First, let's get this straight. Temptation is not a sin. Jesus was tempted but without sin. So, temptation in itself is not a sin.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Temptation can lead to sin only when **WE** allow it to conceive within us. If we kill someone with a gun, the gun didn't kill the person. We did. If we make poor and sinful choices in life, our parents didn't cause us do that. We made those choices.
-) If we riot and smash and grab, society didn't make us do that. We did that. If we abandon our Christian faith because of a college professor's ideology, then we are responsible for our apostasy.
-) If the media tells us to idolize a person for a political, musical, or entertainment reason, then we are the ones who have false gods before us. If we have that adulterous affair, don't blame the boss. Blame your lack of self-control. The bottom line is this: WE sin because WE want to do it. Three quick verses.
-) **SLIDE 13.** EZEKIEL 18:19-20. The Word of God clearly teaches here in this passage from EZEKIEL that we are responsible for our own sins.
-) **SLIDE 14.** JAMES 1:15. We and only we can allow lust to conceive within us which births into sin.

-) **SLIDE 15.** What is lust? Webster. Lust does not specifically have a sexual connotation. It can be a strong desire for anything. And many times, we desire anything.
-) **SLIDE 16.** GENESIS 4:7. Sin is waiting to take us down and will seize any and every opportunity to do so. But what does God tell Cain? Master it. Either sin will become your master or you will become master over your sin. You decide which path you prefer to take.
-) Even though the original sin in the garden was when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, I feel it was just as deadly when they pointed fingers to blame someone else (God or the serpent) for their sinful actions. And here we are, 6000 years later, and nothing has changed.
-) Tell story of D & P. I've spoken to him several times since and he is insistent that God brought them together. Let's look at my friend's rationalization with what the Bible is teaching us.
-) God never said to either one of them, "*I want the two of you to be together so you can live happily ever after. Therefore, I'm going to tempt you and cause you to have a sinful and adulterous affair which may go against My own law but it will serve My ultimate purpose.*"
-) Folks, those words were never spoken by God to these two people. How do I know that? Because God cannot tempt you or cause you to sin to serve His purpose.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Let's not confuse what James is teaching us in 1:13-15 with ROMANS 8:28. IMHO my friend did a very good job of twisting the Scriptures to make them justify his sinful actions.
-) What does ROMANS 8:28 teach us? This verse NEVER ever teaches us that God cause all things. He does not cause sin. He does, however, allow us to follow our own evil desires. And that is exactly what my friend did.

-) We already know that God cannot cause anyone to sin. And God did not cause that person to drive their car intoxicated and kill that other driver. Sometimes we reap what we sow. Right? But we don't want to be accountable for such things, do we? It's not my fault.
-) But, according to ROMANS 8:28, God will use everything that happens in the life of a believer, even sinful situations, to turn that situation into "good" in some way. And we may never immediately know or understand the "good" that comes from it.
-) My friend and his new wife may now be happily married and leading good lives. And that's good. But if they are going to give God the credit (blame) for their storybook lives now, give credit to ROMANS 8:28 and please do not say that God brought them together through a sinful adulterous affair. He did not cause that affair to happen.
-) **SLIDE 18.** And this does not give us the license to go out and sin as much as we want knowing that somehow God will cause my continuous sinful actions to work together for good. ROMANS 3:7-8 address that train of thought.
-) So, you want to do evil so you can experience God's goodness? Is that your motive? Don't go there.
-) It's sad when "*It's not my fault*" is heard among Christians. We should be the first ones to accept responsibility for our sins. God didn't make us sin and the devil didn't make us sin (later on) and the gun, the parents, the politics, the school system, the media, and our boss did not make us sin.
-) Sin is our choice. But we live in a society that will no longer take responsibility for that. A person is not of the LGBTQ persuasion because God made them that way. No. They choose to be that way. And shame on those churches that do not call out this LGTBQ behavior as sinful.

-) The thief chooses to steal. The gossip chooses to talk. The killer chooses his weapon of choice. The idolator chooses his god. The drunkard chooses his drink.
-) The swindler chooses his prey. The adulterer chooses his affair. The liar chooses his false stories. The coveter chooses what his mind desires. This list goes on.
-) We know that God is sovereign over all things, but there is one thing He cannot do and that is to tempt you or cause you to sin. We do that all by ourselves. No one is twisting our arm forcing us to sin. We pick our poison all by ourselves.
-) **SLIDE 19**. Sin has its consequences. Sin will take you to a place you don't want to go. Sin will keep you for a period of time longer than you want to stay. And sin will make you pay a price you cannot afford.
-) **SLIDE 20**. Sin has its consequences. JAMES 1:15. And when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
-) No. God didn't make us sin. We do that all by ourselves.

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