



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*November 3, 2024*

*"James 5: To the Twelve Tribes (and us)..."*

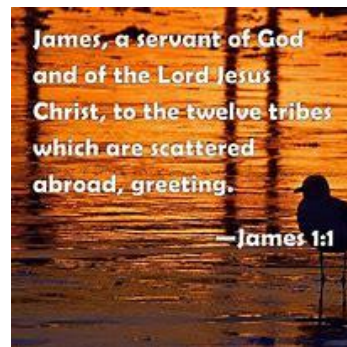
*"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings." (James 5:1)*

**Taking a Broad View of The Letter of James.** In our final "Sunday Blast" about The Letter of James, let's take a step back and review how we might approach James' teachings. We have already looked at James through the lens of "wisdom literature," that is, reading James' letter not as a story or narrative, but as a series of exhortations on behavior to embrace and behavior to avoid in leading a Christian life. Chapter 5 adds these teachings for our edification: the misuse of wealth, patience in suffering, the power of prayer, confession and forgiveness, and healing through faith. These lead us to a second important perspective of James' Letter:

James is writing to communities, not to individuals. Note the opening address:  
"to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings."

**Of course, James is also writing his letter to us.** A faith community which follows James is committed to sharing each other's joys and concerns. James teaches communities to build each other up, while not enabling the divisions in communities to continue. Anyone who has an affliction or worry can reach out and ask for help from their neighbors, whether in sickness, poverty, or spiritual need.

**Let's be honest: most faith communities are not where James would have them be.** That being said, that is no reason to look at James' letter as impractical or "pie in the sky." We should not say to ourselves: "that's all well and good. Those are lovely ideas – dreams really – but it'll never happen." James would tell us to show our faith, believe in the presence of the Holy Spirit at work, believe in the power of prayer, and let our faith show itself in our works.



**Closing Prayer.** Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your guidance and strength. As we reflect on the words of The Letter of James, we ask for the patience to endure trials and the wisdom to seek Your will in all things. Help us to be steadfast in our faith, to pray earnestly, and to support one another in times of need. Grant us the grace to live righteously and to be instruments of Your mercy and compassion, and let our faith show forth in our works. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Prayer Box:** *pray for healing for Evelyn, Debbie, Bill C., Holland, Steve, John H., Patti, and Susan; pray for the soul of Judy and her grieving family; pray for Florence's soul and her grieving family; pray for the soul of John G. and his grieving family; pray for Justin and his family; pray for those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton; pray for those suffering from natural disasters, especially the residents of Roswell, NM; pray for an end to the divisiveness in our country; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan.*

*Lord, hear our prayers!*