

## 3:16 - Contentment

Proverbs 14:30 ❖ James 3:16

“You don’t think your way into a new kind of living.  
You live your way into a new kind of living.”  
(Henri Nouwen)

### Is Your Heart at Peace?

Two of the most \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people I have ever known were two older ladies in my first Church. Their names were Ruby White and Kathryn Belew. Ruby didn’t envy other peoples’ \_\_\_\_\_, and Kathryn didn’t envy other peoples’ \_\_\_\_\_.

“A heart at \_\_\_\_\_ gives life to the body, but \_\_\_\_\_ rots the bones” (Proverbs 14:30).

*How content are you/am I?*

### Who was James?

“James was \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s brother - not \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian is, but literally and actually. The author of the New Testament book which bears his name was Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_-brother.” (“James Speaks for Today,” Herbert Stevenson, p. 8)

“As children, Jesus and James ate every \_\_\_\_\_ together at their mother’s table, \_\_\_\_\_ together, \_\_\_\_\_ together in their father’s carpentry shop, and \_\_\_\_\_ together with their family in the synagogue at Nazareth.”

However, the Gospels make it clear that once Jesus began His \_\_\_\_\_, James and Jesus’ other siblings did not \_\_\_\_\_ Him and certainly did not believe He was the \_\_\_\_\_.

What \_\_\_\_\_ James’ mind? The Apostle Paul gives us the answer in 1 Corinthians 15:7. \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the people Jesus appeared to specifically after His \_\_\_\_\_.

“Paul gives no \_\_\_\_\_ about that appearance, but perhaps it was in the \_\_\_\_\_ shop where the two brothers had worked side by side for so many years, as James busied himself with a job for one of the villagers, with the sweet \_\_\_\_\_ of wood shavings and sawdust in the air, he suddenly heard his \_\_\_\_\_ being called in a voice he recognized ...” (Ibid, p. 10)

James would become the \_\_\_\_\_ of the early Church, which was based in Jerusalem. He wrote his \_\_\_\_\_ to Jewish Christians in 49 A.D., which makes it the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the writings in the New Testament. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the NT.

According to the ancient historian Josephus, the Jewish High Priest had James \_\_\_\_\_ to death in 62 A.D.

It is safe to say that, during Jesus’ ministry and before His resurrection, his brother James was \_\_\_\_\_ of Him. But after Jesus’ resurrection, James was \_\_\_\_\_ because of Him.

### James 3:16

“For where you have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ambition, there you will find disorder and \_\_\_\_\_ evil practice” (James 3:16).

Jesus’ half-brother James discovered what millions and millions of Christians have discovered: that there is an \_\_\_\_\_ ambition which God blesses. It is the desire to live \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_.

“The wisdom that comes from \_\_\_\_\_ is first of all pure; then \_\_\_\_\_-loving, \_\_\_\_\_, submissive, full of \_\_\_\_\_ and good fruit, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_” (James 3:17).

### A New Kind of Living

While under house \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor Paul wrote: “I have \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ whatever the circumstances” (Philippians 4:11).

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul and James was to be content in \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is the secret of inner peace, and it leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

When we are \_\_\_\_\_, because God has saved us from our sins, we want others to be saved, too. When we are \_\_\_\_\_, because God has blessed us with all we need, we want others to have all they need, as well. When we are \_\_\_\_\_, because God has promised we are going to heaven when we die, we want others to go to heaven, too.

*How content are we? How generous are we?* The two go \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

