

## Echoes in James of the Sermon on the Mount

**John Hepp, Jr.**

*These echoes are listed in the order in which they first occur in James. Columns 2 and 4 generally contain exact quotations from the NIV—but sometimes summaries.*

| REFERENCE<br>IN JAMES | WORDS OR THOUGHT<br>THAT ECHO S/MT.   | REFERENCE<br>IN MATT. 5-7 | WORDS OR THOUGHT<br>ECHOED IN JAMES  |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1:2                   | Consider it pure joy...when you face trials                                   | 5:10-12                   | Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...rejoice and be glad.   |
| 1:4                   | so that you may be mature (Gr. <i>teleion</i> ) and complete                  | 5:48                      | Be perfect (Gr. <i>teleioi</i> )...as your heavenly Father is perfect (Gr. <i>teleios</i> ).   |
| 1:5; 4:2              | He should ask God.<br><br>You do not have because you do not ask.             | 7:7-11                    | The Father will give good gifts to those who ask him.  |
| 1:5, 17               | God who gives generously to all...every good and perfect gift.                | 6:4, 6, 26-33;<br>7:11    | Your Father...will reward you—will provide all your need just as He feeds the birds and clothes the grass—will give good gifts to those who ask Him. |
| 1:6-8; 5:15-18        | When he asks, he must believe and not doubt...or will not receive anything.   | 7:7-8                     | Ask (lit. keep on asking) and it will be given to you.   |
| 1:9<br>(cf. 2:2-5)    | The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. | 5:3-5 (Luke 6:20-21)      | Blessed are the poor in spirit (Luke, poor), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven....The meek...will inherit the earth.                               |
| 1:12; 5:11            | Blessed is the one who stands the test.                                       | 5:3-11 (7:25, 27)         | Blessed are...(ch. 7 pictures the test)  |
| 1:12                  | crown of life...promised to those who love him                                | 7:14                      | the road that leads to life  |

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| 1:19-20; 3:1-10           | Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.<br>(Control or lack of control of the tongue)              | 7:1-5; 5:22                   | Do not judge...first take the plank out of your own eye. Anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.   |
| 1:20                      | bring about the righteous life that God desires  | 5:6                           | hunger and thirst for righteousness  |
| 1:22-25                   | Do not merely listen to the word...do what it says.  | 7:24-27, 21-23                | Everyone who hears these words...and puts them into practice is like a wise man. Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father. |
| 1:26                      | keep a tight rein on his tongue  | 7:4                           | How can you say..."Let me take the speck out..."?  |
| 1:27                      | religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress | 6:1-2                         | your acts of righteousness ...when you give to the needy   |
| 2:5                       | Has not God chosen those who are poor...to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom...?                             | See for Js. 1:9.              | See for Js. 1:9.   |
| 2:8                       | the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself"   | 5:43-47; 7:12                 | Love your enemies. Do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.   |
| 2:10                      | For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.                    | 5:17-19                       | Anyone who breaks (lit, cancels) one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.   |

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| 2:11                          | Do not commit adultery...Do not murder  | 5:27, 21                          | [same commands]  |
| 2:13                          | judgment without mercy...to anyone who has not been merciful                        | 5:7; 6:14-15                      | Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. If you forgive men when they sin...your heavenly Father will also forgive you. |
| 2:14-26                       | can faith without deeds save?   | 7:21-23                           | See for Js. 1:22-25.   |
| 3:1-2 (see 4:11)              | We who teach will be judged more strictly.  | 7:1-2                             | Do not judge, or you too will be judged...in the same way ...and with the measure you use.   |
| 3:13                          | Who is wise...? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds....                      | 7:24 (5:1-2)                      | Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man....(They followed Him to learn.)                 |
| 3:16; 4:1-3                   | For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find...every evil practice. | 6:22-23                           | If your eyes are bad (=covetous), your whole body will be full of darkness.  |
| 3:17-18                       | The...wisdom...from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving....              | 5:8-9                             | Blessed are the pure in heart...the peacemakers....  |
| 4:4                           | friendship with the world is hatred toward God                                      | 6:24                              | No one can serve two masters...he will hate the one and love the other or....  |
| 4:6                           | God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.                                | 5:5, 38-42                        | Blessed are the meek.... Do not resist an evil person.   |
| 4:8-10; 5:16                  | mourn and wail...humble yourselves  | 5:3-5, 23-26; 6:12                | Blessed are those who mourn. Be reconciled to your brother. Forgive us our debts.  |

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| 4:11-12; 5:9              | Do not slander one another; Don't grumble against each other.                        | 7:1-5; 5:4                    | Do not judge....In the same way you judge others, you will be judged. Love your enemies. |
| 4:13-15                   | Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will...make money."                   | 6:34                          | Do not worry about tomorrow.   |
| 5:1-6                     | You rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.        | (Luke 6:24-25)                | Woe to you...rich, for you have already received your comfort.                           |
| 5:2-3                     | (You rich), your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.               | 6:19-21                       | treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy (not so in heaven)                       |
| 5:9                       | The Judge is standing at the door.   | 7:21-23                       | Jesus promises to judge "on that day."   |
| 5:10                      | As an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets....            | 5:12                          | in the same way they persecuted the prophets   |
| 5:11                      | The Lord is full of compassion and mercy   | 6:26, 30, 32                  | Your heavenly Father feeds [the birds]...clothes the grass...knows that you need....     |
| 5:12                      | Do not swear...by anything ...let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No....'"      | 5:33-37                       | Do not swear at all....Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No....'"          |
| 5:15-16                   | If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other.... | 6:12-15                       | Forgive us our debts...If you forgive men...your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  |
| 5:16                      | The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.                             | 7:7-8                         | Ask and it will be given to you; seek...knock.   |