

James

- **Author and Date**

- Probably written around AD 57.
- James the ‘lesser’ (or ‘younger’). Died in AD 62.
- Son of Mary and Clophas. Identified as a ‘brother’ (adelphos), or cousin of the Lord (Mt 10:2-4; 27:56; Mk 6:3; 15:40; Jn 19:25; Galatians 1:19). Presumably raised in Nazareth.
- Held in high regard in the early church of Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13-19; 21:18ff).
- St. Paul describes him as a pillar of the Church (Galatians 2:9).

- **Themes**

- Faith without works is dead (2:17,24)
 - Complimentary to St. Paul (Gal 2:16; Rom 3:20)
 - See also, (Gal 5:6; Rom 2:6)
 - Echoes our Lord, “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of God, but he who does the will of my Father.*” (Mt 7:21)
- The root of faith is humility (4:10).
 - Humility increases our receptivity (1:5, 17, 21; 3:15, 17; 4:5-10).
 - Mt 13:23
- Love of wisdom (1:5; 3:13-18).
- Show no partiality (2:1).
 - Pay attention to the poor and the rich alike.
- Control of the tongue.
- Patience in suffering (1:2-4, 12; 5:7-11, 13).
- Anointing of the sick (5:13-15).