

The Strange Case of 'The Brother of God'

March 22, 2026

John 17:1-5 NKJV After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. ² Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. ³ His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. ⁴ For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." ⁵ For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

Introduction

I. James, the brother of Jesus

- A. No Prophet is without honor except in his own house.
- B. His brothers did not believe in Him: James, Joses, Simon and Judas - and at least two sisters. (Matthew 16:35 and Mark 6:3)
- C. Jesus appeared to James. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

II. James - "James the Just"

- A. Bishop of the Church in Jerusalem
- B. Presiding Elder during the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- C. The Epistles of James - establishing the roles of both faith and works in Christian doctrine.
- D. In Galatians 2:9 he is named with Peter and John as three "pillars of the church."
- E. His martyrdom - possibly AD 62 or AD 69
- F. "The knees of a camel"

III. "James the Brother of God"

IV. The error of James

- A. **Insensitivity** - He lived in the very presence of Jesus but had little idea of who his brother was.

- B. **Ignorance** - He was a devout follower of the Law but missed that the Messiah that was the sum and substance of the Law. (Only by Spirit)
 - 1. Unsanctified religion
 - 2. Jerusalem missed the hour of her visitation.
 - 3. The Foolish virgins of Matthew 25

- C. **Individualism** - He was a master of Form, but not of True Righteousness.

- D. **Insufficiency** - Like the Scribe who questioned Jesus about the greatest commandment, James was not far from the kingdom, but neither was he in the Kingdom yet. (Mark 12:34)
 - 1. Carnal efforts
 - 2. Like Martha, we substitute service for sacredness.
 - 3. Not a set of scales

V. Getting on the right track

- A. Stop judging and "second guessing."

- B. Start giving God the time He calls for.
 - 1. When GOD saw that Moses turned aside, He spoke to him out of the bush.
 - 2. "Take heed how you listen."
 - a. Listen for the trumpet.
 - b. Look for the Cloud.

- C. **Be open to "God Moments"**
 - 1. Jacob - "God was in this place, and I didn't even know it!"
 - 2. James met with Jesus after the resurrection.
 - 3. Like Samuel, James did not yet know the voice of God.
 - 4. Joseph Garlington's admonition