



James | Faith That Works – Week 1 “How to Win on the Road”

Matthew 13:55-56a (NIV)

“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us?”

Mark 3:20-21 (NIV)

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

John 7:5 (NIV)

For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (NIV)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

James 1:1 (NIV)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

1. Realize your life is a “Road Game.”

James 1:2 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

2. Winning “Road Games” takes the right mind set.

- Joy is a choice, not merely a feeling.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NIV)

sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV)

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

3. Expecting trials is a key to winning “Road Games.”

- Trials are the inevitable, unavoidable, unpredictable, and uncomfortable circumstances of life.
- Winning “Road Games” means you ENLIST trials.
- Trials get the wrong things out of you and build the right things in you.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

4. Winning “Road Games” means I refuse to play the blame game.

- Blaming God will always put you behind the sticks.
- We cannot let our circumstances shape the way we view our God; we must let our God shape the way we view our circumstances.

James 1:5 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

5. Winning “Road Games” means praying for wisdom and courage.

- Wisdom is knowing the next godly thing to do. Courage is the boldness to do it even if it's difficult.