

James and the Sermon on the Mount

Major Parallels Between James and Matthew 5–7

The Epistle of James closely reflects the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). Many scholars note 15–20 strong parallels. James does not merely repeat Jesus' words — he applies them to everyday Christian living.

Theme	James	Matthew 5–7	Summary
Joy in Trials	James 1:2–4	Matthew 5:10–12	Rejoice in suffering and persecution.
Ask in Faith	James 1:5	Matthew 7:7–11	Ask God confidently; He gives generously.
Doers of the Word	James 1:22–25	Matthew 7:24–27	The wise hear and obey.
Mercy	James 1:27; 2:13	Matthew 5:7	The merciful receive mercy.
Riches Fade	James 1:10–11	Matthew 6:19–21	Earthly wealth is temporary.
The Poor Honored	James 2:5	Matthew 5:3	Blessed are the poor in spirit.
Love Your Neighbor	James 2:8	Matthew 7:12	The royal law reflects the Golden Rule.
Faith & Fruit	James 2:14–26	Matthew 7:16–20	Faith is shown by its fruit.
The Tongue	James 3:1–12	Matthew 5:22, 37	Words reveal the heart.
Peacemakers	James 3:18	Matthew 5:9	Righteousness grows in peace.
Two Masters	James 4:4	Matthew 6:24	Cannot serve God and the world.
Humility	James 4:6–10	Matthew 5:3–5	God exalts the humble.
Judging Others	James 4:11–12	Matthew 7:1–5	Do not judge or slander.
Do Not Boast of Tomorrow	James 4:13–16	Matthew 6:34	Do not presume on the future.
Warning to the Rich	James 5:1–6	Matthew 6:19–24	Treasures on earth perish.
Endurance	James 5:10–11	Matthew 5:12	The prophets endured suffering.
Oaths	James 5:12	Matthew 5:34–37	Let your 'yes' be yes.
Prayer	James 5:16–18	Matthew 6:5–13	Prayer is powerful and essential.

Key Observations

- James emphasizes practical obedience.
- Both stress humility, mercy, and righteousness.
- Both warn against hypocrisy.
- Both contrast worldly wealth with eternal treasure.
- James reads like the Sermon on the Mount lived out in the church.