

They Saw Him Alive

James: The Unbelieving Brother

John 7.1-5, Acts 15.13-21

James was not a follower of his brother, Jesus. Then he was. Then he became the leader of the church at Jerusalem. Then he gave one of the greatest principles of the New Testament. What happened? He saw the resurrected Jesus.

A Former Unbeliever Became The Advocate For Gentile Unbelievers

7.1 After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.

2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near.

3 Therefore His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.”

5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

15. 13 After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me.

14 Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.

15 With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,

16 'After these things I will return,
And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen,
And I will rebuild its ruins,
And I will restore it,

17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,'

18 Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.

19 Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,

20 but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

21 For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

We need to stop making it hard for people to follow Jesus

Once you follow Jesus, don't go back to the life you left behind

Seeing The Resurrected Jesus Mattered

Like Peter, James fundamentally altered the direction of the Christian movement. Because he saw the resurrected Jesus

They have to change their behavior

They have to believe or do certain things

We never tell them about Jesus