

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Undivided Devotion: The Letter of James*

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### **Seeking the Strays (James 5:19-20)**

*“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,<sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)*

#### **1. Embrace your Role:**

#### **2. Encourage Repentance:**

#### **3. Eagerly Restore:**

#### **Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?

#### **Going Deeper:**

2. According to James, when we bring someone back to the truth we “*save [their] soul from death*” (v. 20)? Who, according to James “*saves*” wandering believers? How does God work through other believers to keep us in the faith, and bring us safely home to him (see Hebrews 3:13-14)? How does this impact the way we think about our responsibility to one another?
3. James’ conditional statement in verse 19 is exceedingly broad. Why is this significant? How does recognizing that we are “*prone to wander*” impact the way we pursue wanderers (see Galatians 6:1)?
4. James says that those who bring back wanderers “*cover a multitude of sins*” (v. 20). Whose sins do they cover? In light of Proverbs 10:12 and 17:9, what might this phrase mean?
5. Read Matthew 18:10-14. Who is Jesus speaking about in this parable (see v. 14; compare vv. 4-9)? What is Jesus’ posture towards believers who stray? How should this impact our posture towards them?

**Application:**

6. Jeff listed a number of reasons people wander from the truth, and why each requires a different response from us. Which stood out to you? Why?
7. Name one person in your life who has wandered from Christ or his church. Are they still open to relationship with you? What’s one thing you could do to express love to them, or help “*bring them back*” to the truth?
8. What’s one thing from this week’s sermon that you can apply to your life?