

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations. GREETINGS. (1:1)

Coming to his hometown... They were amazed... "Where did this man get such wisdom and these miraculous powers? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? (Mt. 13:55-56)

I saw none of the other apostles, except James, the Lord's brother. (Gal. 1:19)

? Why did James not highlight or leverage his famous connection to Jesus?

## THE LETTER WAS NOT ABOUNT HIMSELF

• On some occasions, <u>personal news</u> (even through positive) is inappropriate.

On being an intermediary... <u>sometimes</u> the only sure way not to interfere is to <u>remove yourself</u>.

## THE URGE/NEED TO "WRITE" DID NOT EMERGE FROM THIS FAMILY "CONNECTION"

earthly connections were neither
<u>qualifications</u> nor <u>inspirations</u>
for those who wrote the Bible

... For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (11 Peter 1)

## THE FAMILY CONNECTION WAS INSIGNIFICANT <u>COMPARED</u> TO THE VITAL <u>SPIRITUAL</u> REALITY OF "SERVANT > LORD"

In itself, "sibling of Jesus" did not **trigger** repentance, faith, and rebirth. So in that sense, it was **irrelevant**.

People often assume they have friendship with God because of:

- fascination with facts (about Jesus)
- **friendship** with **followers** (of Jesus)

Only when (like James) <u>familiarity</u> becomes <u>faith</u> does God's forgiveness, salvation, and transformation really happen!