

EXALTED & HUMBLLED BY GRACE

James 1:9-11

Matt Nix: May 21st, 2017

Warm Up:

Did God ever bring you through a difficult trial --- which you are now thankful for?

What feelings come to the surface for you when you are with the rich? The lowly?

Digging Deeper:

1. **Read James 1:1 - 12.** Does our attitude matter when experiencing a trial (v. 2)? How can we benefit from them? What do you think “pure joy” looks like those situations?
2. Read verses 5-8 and 12 again. What does God promise? What should we avoid? How are doubt and instability connected?
3. Matt quoted the old Puritans: “The hardest trial is no trial at all.” What does this mean? Do you agree?
4. For the rich, what is James’ warning? Why do you think the rich need this reminder? What is the “high position” that the lowly can boast in? Matt said “the poor and the rich have something in common. The temptation is the same.” What is it?

Application:

1. **Read 2 Cor. 4:16-18.** Do you find Paul’s example here easy or hard to follow? Why? What do these verses stir up in you?
2. Matt said that most trials occur when we lose something we wanted. Can you think of an example in your own life?

How have you seen --- or received --- God's Grace this week?