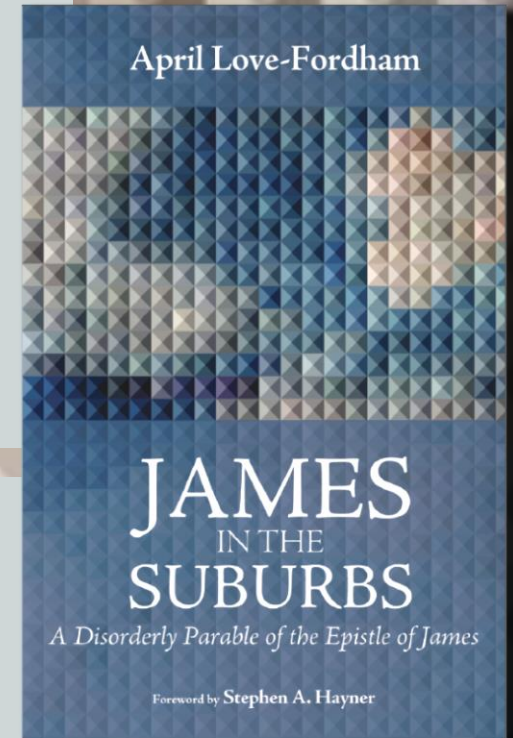


James in the Suburbs

A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James



The Epistle of James

- May 1: The Problems of a Servant of Christ
- May 8: James's Strategy for Dealing with Problems
- May 15: Pure and Undeified Worship – 5 Examples
- May 22: Pure and Undeified Worship – 5 More Examples



About me







**Then I started to
write . . .**



What is a **Parable-Commentary**?

The Parable



Olivia
Business
Woman

Liz
Crusty Old
Timer

Eddie
Goofy Priest

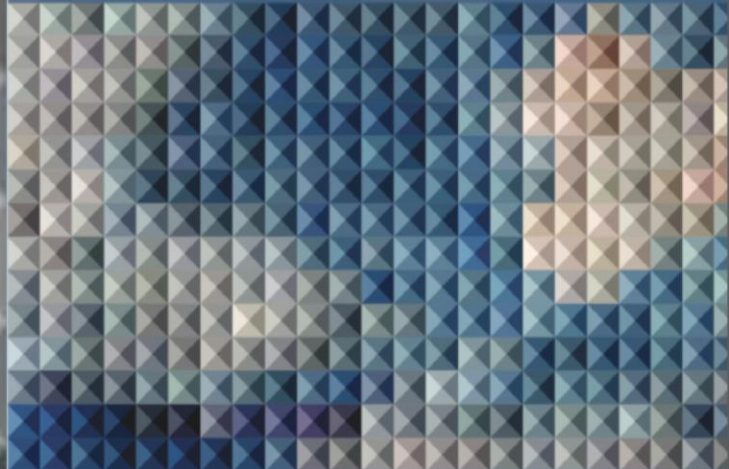


Joe
Business
Executive

Rodney
Social Justice
Crusader

Helen
Mother of Twins

April Love-Fordham



JAMES IN THE SUBURBS

A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James

Foreword by **Stephen A. Hayner**

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Dismantling Injustice

*A Disorderly Parable of the
Song of Songs*

Foreword by **Catherin Meeks**

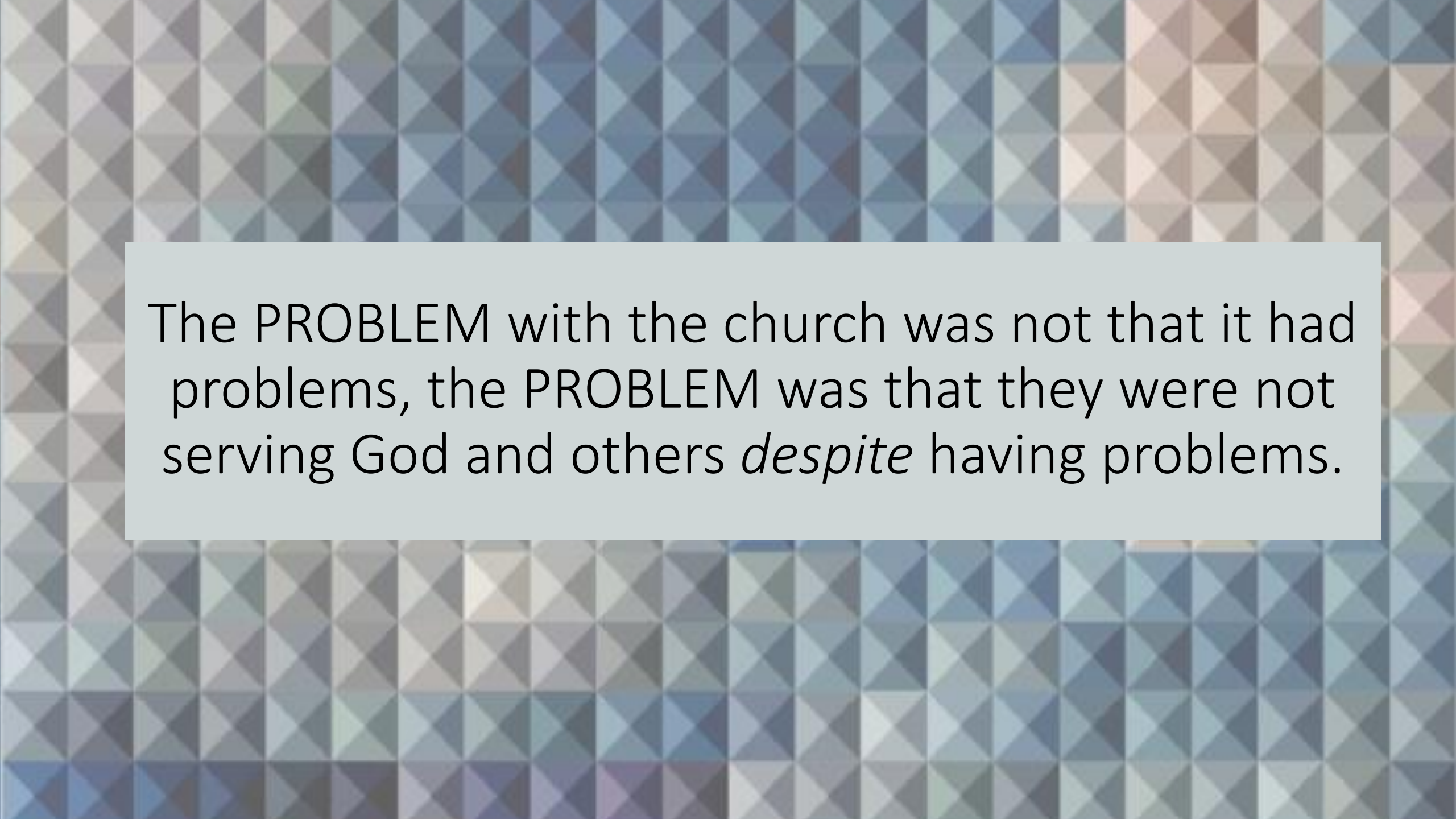


Does the Church have problems today?

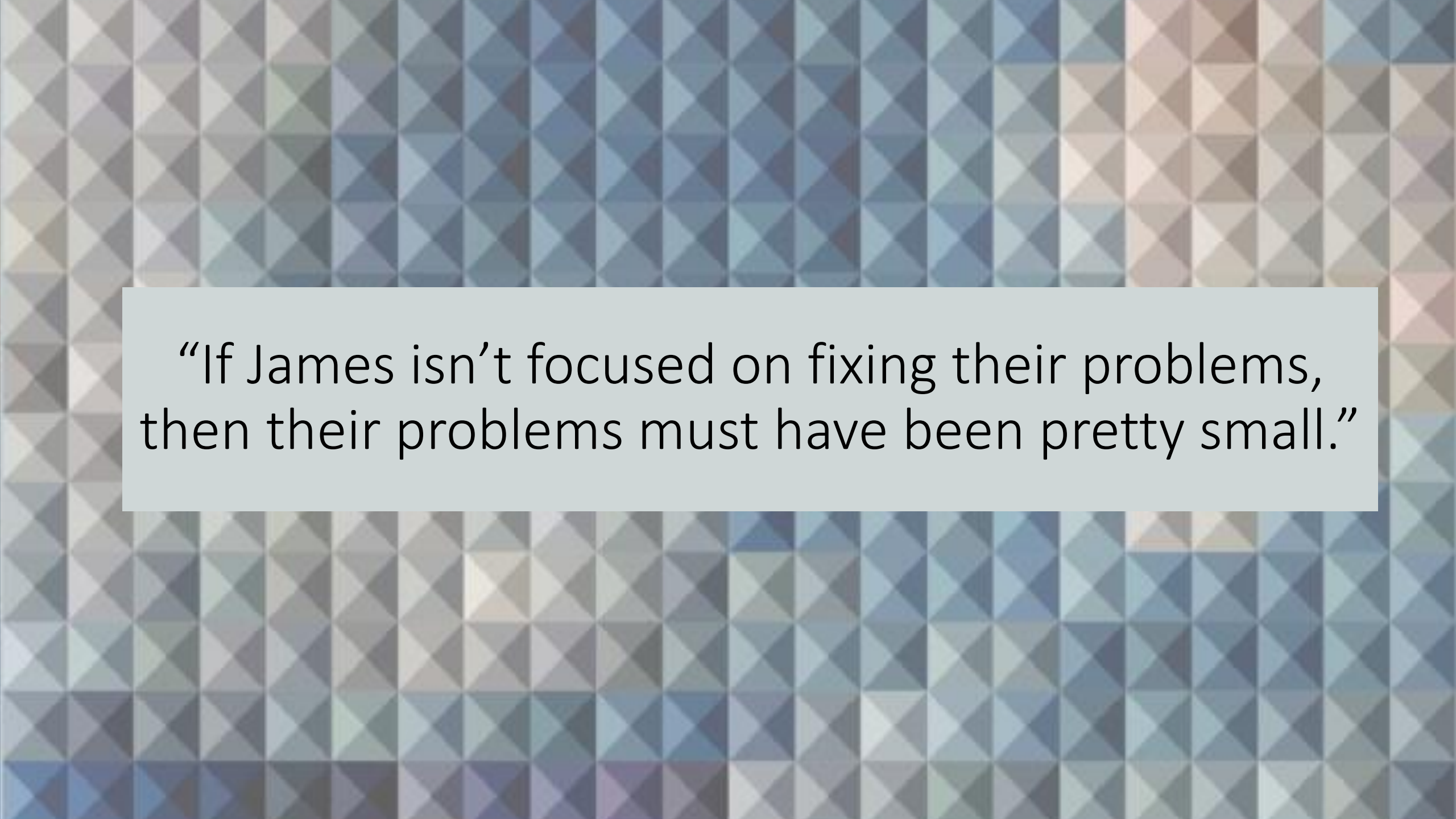
Do you have problems today?



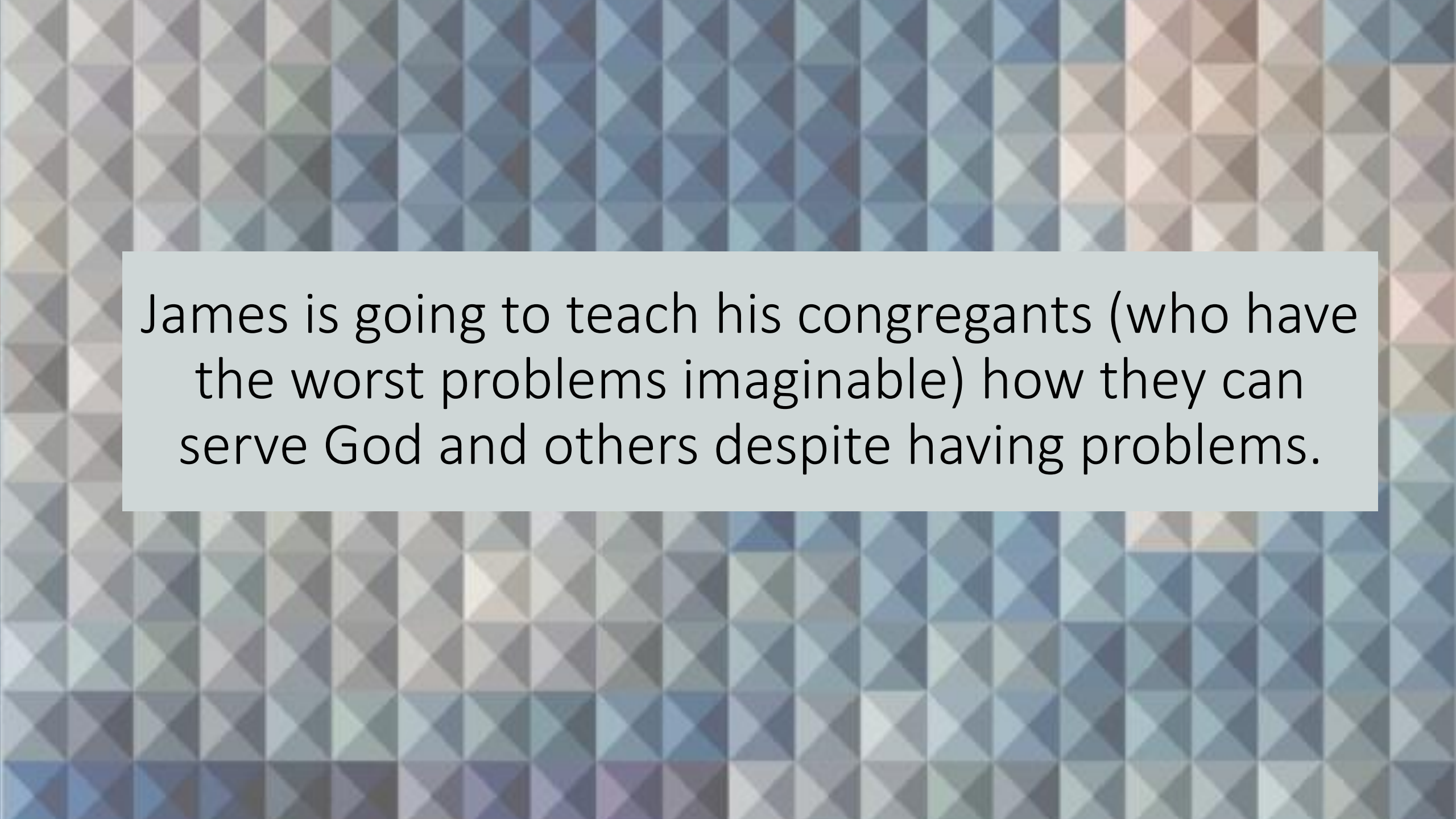
There was something wrong
in James's Church too!



The PROBLEM with the church was not that it had problems, the PROBLEM was that they were not serving God and others *despite* having problems.



“If James isn’t focused on fixing their problems, then their problems must have been pretty small.”



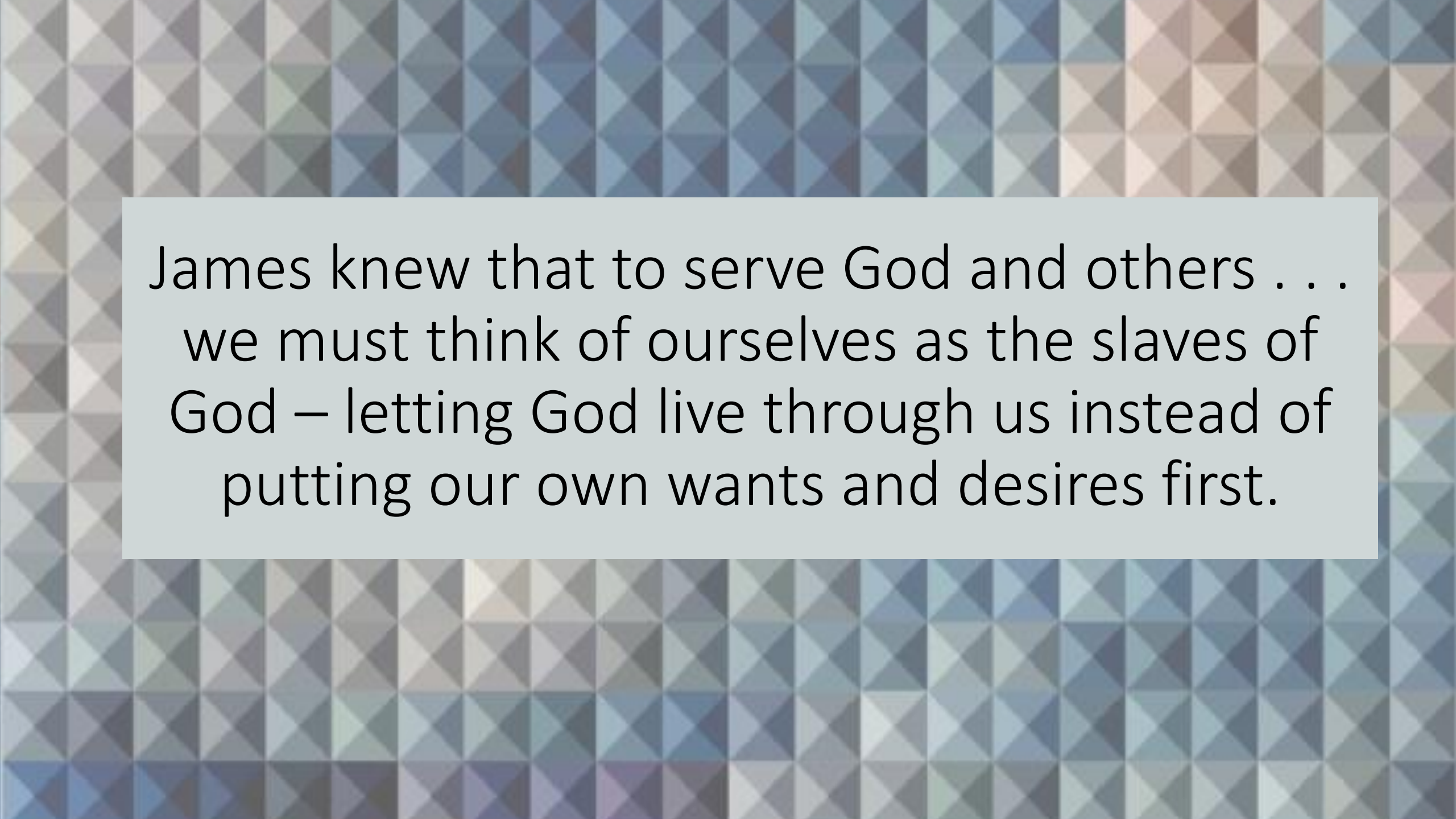
James is going to teach his congregants (who have the worst problems imaginable) how they can serve God and others despite having problems.

James, a **servant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ
-- Jam 1:1

James, a **slave** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

-- Jam 1:1

δοῦλος is better translated as **“slave”**




James knew that to serve God and others . . .
we must think of ourselves as the slaves of
God – letting God live through us instead of
putting our own wants and desires first.

The BIG Catch

Slavery to God requires
that we also serve others – even our enemies.

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt 5:44)

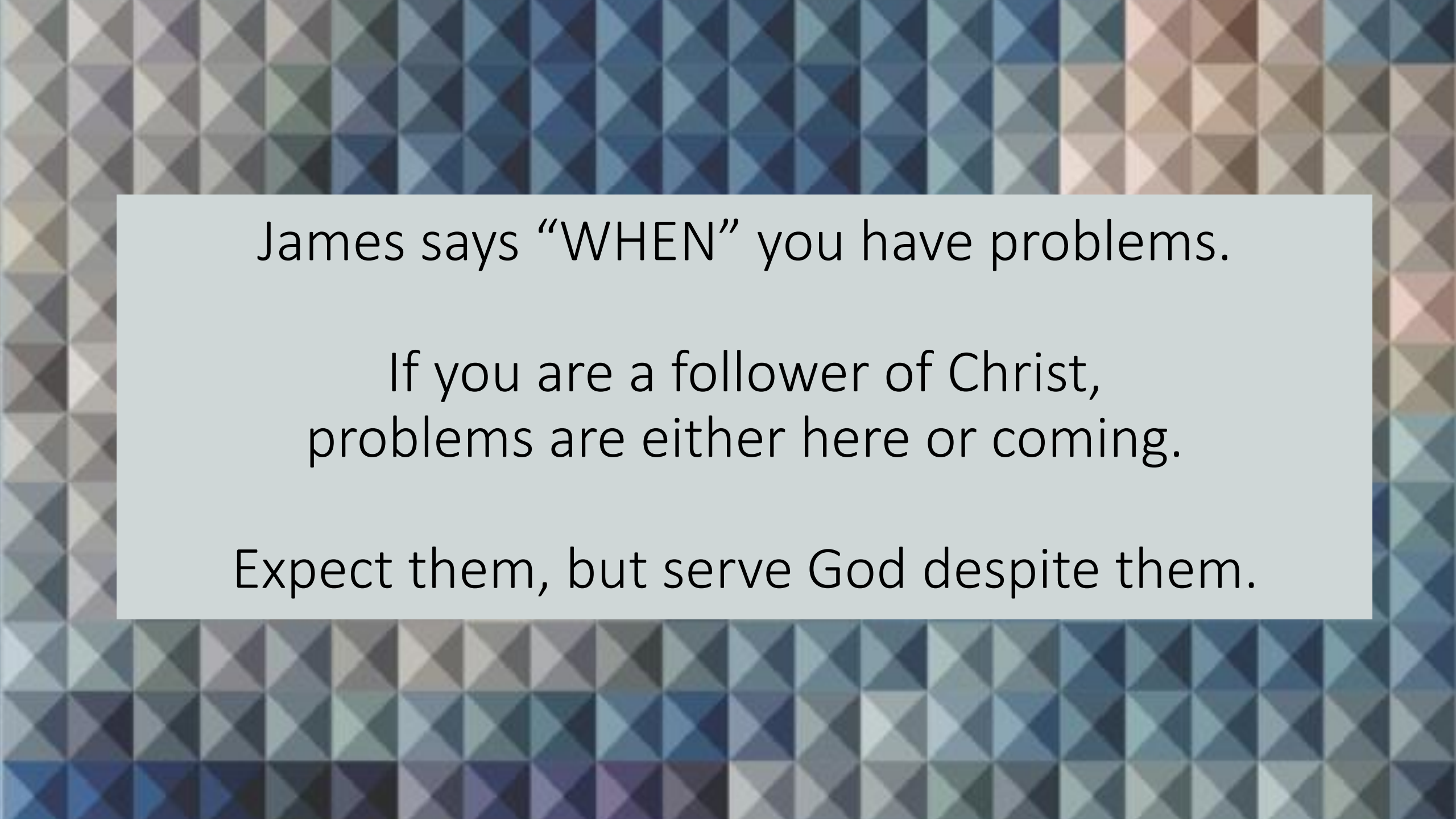
“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your **servant**”
(Mar 10:43)



Are you committed to
serving God and others despite your own
problems?

James doesn't tell us . . .

- Your problems will go away when you become a Christian
- Your problems won't hurt any more when you become a Christian
- Good Christians don't have problems
- Smart, well-prepared people don't have problems
- You should be ashamed of your problems.



James says “WHEN” you have problems.

If you are a follower of Christ,
problems are either here or coming.

Expect them, but serve God despite them.

James Tells us the Truth about Problems

What We Often Think. . .

- Problems are obstacles to happiness
- Problems are obstacles to doing God's work
- We should (always) avoid problems
- Problems scar us.

What James teaches . . .

- Problems are occasions for joy
- Problems shouldn't stop us from serving God.
- Endure (not avoid) problems
- Problems make us mature and complete

Living Faith serves God and others regardless of any problems we might face.

Dead faith sits around believing God will fix our problems, give us more of what we want, and be on our side in any conflict.

The background of the slide features a complex geometric pattern of interlocking triangles in various shades of blue, teal, and brown. A large, light gray rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the text.

Next Week

James's Strategy for Dealing with Problems

April Love-Fordham

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