

Lesson 8

Chapter 4: 9 – 17

Real Faith Submits to God

Key Verse James 4: 17

A. Introduction

a. The prophetic voice of James really comes through in this passage. The great prophet Micah preached, so does James.

***Micah 1: 8**

***James 4: 9 James exhorts!**

***Joel 2: 31; 3: 14 Dreadful “Day of the Lord”**

***Isaiah 13: 6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near**

b. The only real option we have is to humbly repeat in the face of Gods impending judgement. Then, and only then will God forgive and lift us up to a state of honor.

c. The seriousness of James message moves us to prayer. James demands change. He wants evil speech and behavior to cease. He firmly believes that knowledge of what is good requires the doing of what is good.

(1)

d. We need to pray that God would truly grant us a spirit of repentance so that we could receive all the good things that He has for us.

***Psalms 139: 23 – 24 David prayer of humility. This is the kind of prayer that leads to the path of divine favor.**

e. James requires that we pray this kind of prayer. Enter now into heart – felt prayer, seeking Gods divine direction as you commence this lesson.

***James 4: 9 – 17**

B. Discover

a. We need to understand the content of James

- 1. To identify controlling ideas**
- 2. To note connections with the areas of James that you have already studied.**

b. You will find that the language and imagery in this section is truly powerful. That is the prophetic tone and vivid word pictures in these scriptures which bring to mind many relevant questions.

***Questions: Why would James want his recipients to change their laughter into mourning and joy into sadness?**

***Questions: Where in the scripture do we read if a person humbles himself or herself before the Lord? Then God will lift them up.**

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***Question: Where else in James does he address evil speaking?**

***Question: How might you describe the attitude of the persons addressed in James 4: 13?**

***Where else in James has he spoken of boasting?**

C. Discern:

a. The discern step is arguably the most important part of a study

***2 Samuel 22: 29**

b. This scripture teaches that we cannot approach the Bible just like any other piece of literature. If the Bible is inspired by God, only God can reveal its true meaning. Without the help of the Spirit, you will never arrive at the true sense and impact of James 4: 9 – 17.

c. Praying to God will enliven the Spirit within you so that you might discern what the Lord is saying in these passages.

***1 Peter 5: 6 will give additional insight into James 4: 6**

***Romans 2: 1 – 3; 2: 17 – 23 Pauls' words here sounds a lot like James 4: 11 – 12**

***James 4: 17 emphasis is on “doing” echoes a central theme of James found in 2: 14 – 26**

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***Question: Who might James have in mind when he says, “there is only Lawgiver – James 4: 12?**

d. James point in 4: 15 reflects the doctrine of the sovereignty of God, or the belief that God is in control of all things. Does this teach us the doctrine of divine sovereignty?

D. Devote:

a. Here in James 4: 9 – 17 we have a clear understanding of what James expects out of his readers – We know what kind of obedience and commitment is required of anyone who takes the scripture seriously.

b. The devote step here is intended to serve as a clear signpost pointing you to sincere obedience to Gods Word.

c. The Spiritual challenges presented in James are not to be taken lightly. They are the kinds of discipleship goals that can only be reached by way of prayer.

d. King David was a man who did what it meant to require in the Lord. David at times would sing and dance in the presence of God.

***Psalms 9: 2**

e. Yet David also knew how to lament and mourn before the Lord, David cries out

***Psalms 6: 6**

f. His son Solomon must have observed the ebb and flow of David & Spirit when he wrote

***Eccl 3: 1, 4**

g. For James, it is the time to lament – to weep – to mourn. James exhorts this season of sorrow because his readers are out of with what time it is. It is not the time to be frivolous and lighthearted. It is time for some serious soul searching and intercession.

***Question: Are you prepared to lay aside a Spirit of mirth and embrace a somber time of reflection before the Lord?**

***James 4: 11 – 12 – We are not to judge one another. If we do we stand in the place of God.**

h. Our prayer must be God grant me the wisdom and power to resist such judgements on people

***James 4: 13 – 14 Second great sin**

i. The sin of thinking we are in complete control of our destiny – This sin denies the sovereign control of God

***James 4: 17 the third sin is of omission**

j. If we know to do good and not do good, this is sin

(5)

E. Disciple

a. The aspect of our study calls for concrete observable change in our behavior. If we sincerely devote ourselves to the spiritual council of James, you are then prepared to make definitive changes in your life. Make a covenant with the Word and commit to the following:

- 1. Stop judging others – Let God alone be God**
- 2. Renouncing the sin of presumption in my life and commit to putting God back on the throne of my life, always seeking His will**
- 3. Immediately and without hesitation doing what I know to be good**

b. James challenges us to share with others. Sometimes discipling others, at times, “tough love” is required. It is not fun – but if you love and really care for someone you will.

***Proverbs 27: 17**

***James 4: 9 – 17**

***Proverbs 14: 34**

***James exhorts his recipients to be honest and fair in business**

Next Week
James 5: 1 – 9
Real Faith Seeks Justice

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