

JAMES – LESSON 7
JAMES 4: 1 – 8
REAL FAITH IS NOT WORLDLY

***KEY VERSE: JAMES 4: 4**

A. INTRODUCTION

a. JAMES IS GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER THAT IS ALL OF THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT HAS RISEN AMONG “THE TWELVE TRIBES SCATTERED A BROAD”, STEMS FROM ONE MAJOR SIN, WORLDINESS.

***JAMES 1: 1**

***JAMES 1: 5; 3: 13 – 18 – LACK WISDOM**

***JAMES 1: 6 – DOUBT**

***JAMES 1: 12 – 18 – BLAMING GOD FOR TEMPTATION**

***JAMES 1: 19 – 25 – 2: 14 – 26 – LIFELESS FAITH**

***JAMES 2: 1 – 13 – FAVORING THE RICH**

***JAMES 3: 1 – 12 – SINFUL SPEECH**

b. THESE ALL FIND THEIR SOURCE IN BEFRIENDING THE WORLD AND NOT TRULY LOVING GOD – JAMES POINTS THAT A CARNAL REBELLIOUS SPIRIT IS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD. THE ONLY WAY FORWARD FOR JAMES RECIPENTS IS TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE GOD AND RESIST THE DEVIL.

***JAMES 4: 6 – 7**

***JAMES 4: 8 DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND IN DUE SEASON**

***JAMES 4: 6 GOD GIVES THEM GRACE**

***JAMES 4: 10 ONLY THEN WILL GOD EXALT THEM TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE KINGDOM**

c. WHAT JAMES IS ADVOCATING INDEED WHAT HE HAS BEEN PROMOTING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HIS EPISTLE, IS COMMITMENT TO LIFE IN THE SPIRIT.

***JAMES 1: 17**

d. HE IS DEMANDING THAT HIS RECIPIENTS RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GOD

***JAMES 3: 17 – 18**

e. AND EVIDENCE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

***1 THESSALONIANS 5: 17 ALL OF THIS REQUIRES A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER**

***PRAY!**

f. WE WILL BE LAUNCHING INTO THIS EXCITING AND SUPREMELY CHALLENGING PART OF JAMES AND TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR GODS GUIDANCE.

***THE ONLY ANTIDOTE TO WORLDLINESS IS GODLINESS**

g. NO AMOUNT OF MAN – MADE VITUE OR MORAL DISCIPLINE CAN BREAK THE STRONGHOLD OF THE WORLD ON A PERSONS LIFE – JOHN SAYS THE SAMETHING.

***1 JOHN 2: 15 – 16**

h. GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD IN THE SENSE THAT HE IS COMPLETED DEVOTED TO YOU AND SO DESIRES THAT YOU BE COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO HIM. ANYTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE COMMITMENT TO GOD IS SPIRITUAL ADULTERY, IT IS THE SPIRIT OF IDOLATRY.

***JAMES 4: 4 – 5**

***EZEKIEL 6: 9 – 23: 30, 37**

***OUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO HAVE A LIFE TOTALLY SURRENDERED TO GOD, OUR MIND, OUR HEART, AND OUR ACTIONS.**

JAMES 4: 1 – 8

B. DISCOVER

JAMES 4: 1 – 8 A VERY RICH TEXT

a. THERE ARE SO MANY “ECHEO’S” OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS IN THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE – THERE ARE MANY REFERENCES TO THE TEACHING OF JESUS – AS YOU STUDY, IT WILL BECOME APPARENT, YOU WILL ENGAGE JAMES AT ONE POINT, BUT SOON HIS POWERFUL WORDS WILL LEAD YOU ON A JOURNEY THROUGHOUT GODS HOLY WORD.

***THERE IS A LOT TO DISCOVER IN THIS PASSAGE**

***QUESTION: HOW MIGHT THE DESIRES MENTIONED IN JAMES 4: 1 RELATE TO THE SPECIAL WORDS AND IMAGES SET FORTH IN JAMES 1: 14 – 15?**

***QUESTION: WHAT WORDS OF JESUS ARE CALLED TO MIND AFTER READING JAMES 4: 2 – 3?**

***WHO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS A “FRIEND OF THE WORLD AND ENEMY OF GOD”.**

***MATTHEW 26: 14 – 16**

***2 TIMOTHY 4: 10**

***HOW DO YOU THINK THE WORD “SPIRIT” SHOULD BE TRANSLATED IN JAMES 4: 5 SHOULD IT BE SPELLED WITH A LOWERCASE S OR WITH CAPITAL S?**

C. DISCERN

***JAMES INCLUDES A LOT OF WORDS ABOUT FIGHTING AND BATTLING.**

***JAMES USES A LOT OF AGGRESSIVE AND NEGATIVE IMAGES.**

***JAMES ADDRESSES SOME REAL STRONGHOLDS IN OUR LIVES.**

***THERE IS A KIND OF FIGHT THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD – OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL AND ALL THAT HE STANDS FOR.**

***PRAYERS**

***EPHESIANS 6: 12 – 17**

a. PAULS WORDS TEACH US MANY THINGS. YET THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THIS PASSAGE IS THAT THE REAL SOURCE BEHIND ALL STRIFE AND VIOLENCE IS THE DEVIL AND ALL OF HIS EVIL HELPERS. SO IT IS THE DEVIL AND HIS MINIONS THAT WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING AGAINST AND NOT OURSELVES.

b. PAUL PAINTS THE IMAGE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE OF A ROMAN SOLDIER IN FULL BATTLE. EACH OF ARMOR IS SYMBOLIC OF THE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS THAT THE BELIEVER HAS AT HIS OR HER DISPOSAL.

***WE NEED TO MAKE FULL US OF WEAPONS THAT GOD HAS GRANTED US TO FIGHT THE REAL ENEMY WHO IS SATAN.**

c. SOME TIPS FOR INTERPRETATION THAT CAN STRENGTHEN THE INSIGHTS.

1. THE WORD FOR "DESIRES" IN JAMES 4: 1 IS "HEDONE" FROM WHICH WE GET THE ENGLISH WORD "HEDONISM". HEDONISM MEANS THE UNBRIDLED PURSUIT OF BODILY PLEASURES, ESPECIALLY OF A SENFREL KIND.

2. THE WORDS "KILL" AND "COVET" JAMES 4: 2 SHOULD BE TAKEN METAPHORICALLY. IN OTHER WORDS "KILL" AND "COVET" REFERS TO SINS OF THE HEART LIKE HATRED AND LUST.

*MATTHEW 5: 21 – 22

3. JAMES SEEMS TO HAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN MIND (JAMES 4: 5) GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD.

4. THE PHRASE "THE SPIRIT THAT DWELLS IN YOU" JAMES 4: 5 SOUNDS A LOT LIKE PAUL WOULD WRITE.

*QUESTION: ALTHOUGH BY NECESSITY, JAMES MUST MENTION SOME REALLY NEGATIVE THINGS IN THIS PASSAGE.

*JAMES 4: 6 – 8 NOW LIST THE POSITIVE COMMENTS HE MAKES AND THEIR MEANINGS:

*WHAT DOES JAMES 4: 1 – 8 MEAN? _____

D. DEVOTE

*JAMES 4: 1 – 8

a. THIS STEPS CALL FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND WHOLEHEARTED OBEDIENCE.

*DEVOTE STEPS MEANS MOVING IN GODS DIRECTION

*DEVOTE STEPS MEANS TRULY WANTING TO DO GODS WILL

*DEVOTE STEPS MEANS DESIRING FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD SO MUCH MORE THEN DESIRING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD.

*JAMES 4: 7 – 8

b. JAMES CHALLENGE OF DRAWING NEAR TO GOD WILL ONLY COME TO PASS WITH PRATER.

c. THE PSALMIST DESIRES:

- 1. MEET WITH GOD**
- 2. DRAW NEAR TO GOD**

***QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE THAT SAME BURNING DESIRE TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD?**

***QUESTION: ARE YOU WILLING TO SEEK HIM IN PRAYER SO THAT YOU MIGHT RECEIVE HIS GRACE?**

***JAMES 4: 6**

***QUESTION: ARE YOU WILLING TO DRAW SO NEAR TO GOD THAT THE DEVIL CAN'T STAND TO BE NEAR YOU?**

***ARE YOU LONGING TO HAVE EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO AND SAY BE SANCTIFIED FOR GODS WORK AND TO HAVE YOUR HEART PURIFIED BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT?**

d. THE FOLLOWING MAY GRANT YOU SOME "STRUCTURE" FOR DRAWING NEAR TO GOD.

1. IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT JAMES SAYS IN JAMES 4: 1 – 2 WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A PEACEMAKER OR A FIGHTER?

2. HOW EASY IT FOR YOY TO PRAY, 'NOT MY WILL BE DONE, BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE'?

E. DISCIPLE

***DEVOTE STEP IS ALL ABOUT SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT ON THE INSIDE**

***DISCIPLE STEP IS ALL ABOUT REALIZATION OF GODS WILL ON THE OUTSIDE**

***JAMES 4: 1 – 8**

***QUESTION: HOW CAN I "MAKE REAL" THE TEACHING OF JAMES IN MY LIFE?**

***JAMES 4: 7 SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD**

***JAMES 4: 8 COME NEAR TO GOD**

a. SOMETHINGS TO COMMIT TO

***JAMES 4: 1 – 2**

1. NOT SPEAKING OR ACTING IN A WARLIKE OR AGGRESSIVE MATTER

2. NOT ASKING FOR A SINGLE THING IN PRAYER. ALL MY PRAYER WILL BE PRAISE TO GOD OR GENUINELY SEEKING THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

***JAMES 4: 3**

3. BREAKING OFF MY “ENGAGEMENT” TO THE WORLD

***JAMES 4: 4 – 5**

4. SUBMITTING EVERYTHING TO GOD, WHATEVER IT TAKES, SO I CAN DRAW NEAR TO HIM AND RECEIVE GRACE AND CLEANSING.

***JAMES 4: 8**

***PRAY FOR GOD TO MAKE WAYS FOR YOU TO SHARE THIS LIFE – GIVING MESSAGE OF JAMES**

***PROVERBS 11: 30**

**NEXT WEEK
LESSON 8
JAMES 4: 9 – 17
REAL FAITH SUBMITS TO GOD**