



# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26





*Faith and Pleasures*  
James 4:1-12

# Context of James

- Tests reveal what we know/believe
- God uses tests to mature us
- We should welcome the tests and grow from them



# James 4:1-12

- Test #4: What do you do with earthly pleasures?
  - Are these to be pursued?
  - Where do you look for fulfillment?
  - What if there is no fulfillment?

# James 4:1-12

1. The Source (1)
2. The Situation (2-3)
3. The Scolding (4-5)
4. The Solution (6-12)
  - Toward God (6-10)
  - Toward Man (11-12)

# Review

- Quarrels and conflicts come when we pursue our pleasures according to earthly wisdom rather than love one another according to Godly wisdom

# Dealing with *Wants*

1. What are you willing to do to get what you want?
2. What do you do if you don't get what you want?



# Friendship With The World

- Looking to the world system rather than God to satisfy your pleasures
- Acting out when we don't get it
- “You serve best the one you love most” (cf. 1:12)



# The Scolding

- The Holy Spirit longs for our undivided devotion (Gal. 5:16-17)
  - We cannot serve two masters
  - We must examine ourselves for any worldly tendencies

# The Solution - Toward God

- Two important truths (6):
  1. God gives a greater grace
    - Not just *more*, but *greater*
    - Greater than our *double-soul*

# The Solution - Toward God

- Two important truths (6):
  2. God gives grace to the humble
- Prov. 3:34 (LXX); 2 Chron. 12:6-8; Ezra 8:22; Ps. 138:6; Matt. 23:12; Luke 1:51-52; 1 Pet. 5:5



# The Solution - Toward God

- God is opposed to the proud
  - Lit. - *arrayed for battle against*
  - Proud – impious (*sin against love*); self-glorifying; independent
    - Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2

# The Solution - Toward God

- but gives grace to the humble
  - Grace – undeserved active help, strength, wisdom, etc., from the generous, all-sufficient God
    - Greater than sin & temptation

# The Solution - Toward God

- but gives grace to the humble
  - Humble – correct estimate of self; those who recognize their need and unworthiness, and cry out for undeserved help anyway



# The Solution - Toward God

- Grace: *Gatorade* vs. swimming pool
  - Helps us to persevere (1:4, 12)
  - Teaches us to deny worldly desires (Titus 2:11-15)
  - HOW? (10 imperatives)

# The Solution - Toward God

## 1. Submit to God

- God's will; not our lusts/pleasures or the world's ways/wisdom
- The humble submit & receive grace
- Heb. 12:9 – discipline / holiness

# The Solution - Toward God

2. Resist the devil – *withstand; to be firm against onset*
  - Use God's Word (Matt. 4:1-11) and God's grace to stand firm in faith (1 Pet. 5:5-11) and the devil will flee!



# The Solution - Toward God

## 3. Draw near to God

- OT: Lev. 10:3; 21:21-23; Isa. 29:13; Hos. 12:6 (*acceptable worshipers*)
- A choice to respond to God's call for intimate fellowship

# The Solution - Toward God

4. Cleanse your hands, you sinners
  - Hands* symbolizes actions / deeds
  - Stop doing worldly things (2 Cor. 7:1), i.e.- behavior unbecoming of *saints* (cf. Eph. 5:3; 1 Pet. 2:11-12)

# The Solution - Toward God

5. Purify your hearts, you double-minded
  - Inner moral cleansing – 1 John 3:3
  - Deal with any worldly defilement
  - Ps. 24:3-5 - *clean hands, pure heart*



# The Solution - Toward God

6. Be miserable – *be wretched*
  - Recognize the wretchedness of your sin (*friendship with the world*)
  - Take to heart what you have done

# The Solution - Toward God

7. Mourn and 8. weep

–Manifested grief – Mark 16:10;

Luke 6:25

–Those who mourn will be  
comforted – Matt. 5:4

# The Solution - Toward God

9. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom
  - Allow conviction from the Spirit to affect you and manifest itself*
  - Like the publican – Luke 18:13-14



# The Solution - Toward God

10. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you

–Matt. 23:12; Luke 14:11

–Godly wisdom vs. earthly wisdom

# So What?

- Do I take the Christian life seriously?
- Am I using God's grace?
- Am I at all *double-minded*?
  - Any friendship with the world?
- Am I truly humble before God?

# The Solution – Toward Man

- Do not speak against one another
  - Slander; speak evil of; backbiting; defamation; maliciousness
  - 3:9-10, 14-16; 4:1-2 (cf. 1:26)



# The Solution – Toward Man

- Or judges his brother
  - Condemnation with evil intent
  - Censorship based on disagreement
  - Jealousy / selfish ambition (3:14-16)

# The Solution – Toward Man

- Words & actions vs. the person
  - “I disagree” vs. “Idiot!”
- We are to judge words and actions and help correct them (e.g. - 1 Cor. 5)
- Yet without malice (Matt. 5:21-22)

# The Solution – Toward Man

- Speaks against / judges the law
  - The royal law of liberty: *Love your neighbor as yourself* (1:25; 2:8)
  - Violation = “Doesn’t apply to me!”
  - You are judging the law itself



# The Solution – Toward Man

- Speaks against / judges the law
  - If you are *judging* the law then you are not *doing* the law (cf. 1:22-25)
  - So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law (2:12)

# The Solution – Toward Man

- There is only one Lawgiver and Judge
  - Able to save and to destroy
    - His sovereignty, ability, right
- And it ain't you!
  - So humble yourself and love others

# So What?

- How do I speak to / about others?
  - Backbiting? Defamation?
  - Tearing down or building up?
- Do I place myself above the law?
- Do I put myself in the place of God?