
James 4:1-10

Shoe-leather Christianity

For May 25, 2008

LESSON 8

Dr. Jerry Nelson

Questions are to be completed the week of May 18 leading up to the sermon on May 25.

Submit Yourselves to God

Read James 4:1-10 and answer the following questions:

1. (4:1) To whom do you think the "you" of this verse is referring?

What is the source of their fights and quarrels?

How does this verse compare to 1:14?
2. (4:2) What are the several ways James describes the fighting and quarreling among God's people?

Were the Christians actually killing one another or is this hyperbole for what Jesus describes in Matthew 5:21-22?

What reason does James give for why they don't have what they desire?

Think about it: Does James suggest we will get whatever we desire, even if the desires are evil?
3. (4:4) Friendship with the world results in a change in our attitude toward God and a change in God's attitude toward us. What are the two attitudes?

How does the word "adulterous" fit this situation?

4 (4:5) The difficulty of this verse is in identifying whether the “spirit” here is our spirit or the Holy Spirit. Most agree that the Holy Spirit better fits the context. The Holy Spirit jealously desires our devotion.

5. (4:6) Think about it: What is this “grace” for?

How does the word “proud” describe those identified in verses 1-4?

How will the “humble” contrast with this?

6. (4:7) In verses 7-10 James gives 10 commands all having to do with humbling ourselves. In context (verses 1-6) what does the “devil” present to us that we are to resist?

What will submitting to God look like?

How might attitudes and actions opposite those described in verses 2 and 3 help us understand submission to God?

7. (4:8) What is God’s promise if we will desire him?

“Wash”ing and “purify”ing have to do with our actions and even our thoughts changing from a proud love of the world to drawing near to God. In context, to what does “double-minded” refer?

8. (4:9) Repentance is the subject. How do these words describe repentance?

9. (4:10) This verse takes us back to verse 6. Think about it: In context, what does being “lift”ed up look like?

Personal Reflection

What do you do when you want something, you pray about it, and God hasn’t answered your prayers? What is your response to others who have what you want?

What does it mean to be spiritually adulterous? Where does it lead?

Many times we are unwilling to submit to the leading of the Spirit, and we likewise are unwilling to resist the devil and his tantalizing influences. What will reverse this trend?

Write down one or two things that you are currently unwilling to do, and pray that God will give you the willingness to do them.

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Memory Verse: James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

For VerseMinder go to <http://soundliving.org/verseminder.shtml>