Sermon Notes

James 4:11-12

Shoe-leather Christianity

For June 1, 2008 | **LESSON 9** | Dr. Jerry Nelson

Questions are to be completed the week of May 25 leading up to the sermon on June 1.

Faultfinding

Read James 4:11-12 and answer the following questions:

1. (4:11) What is James' single and simple command in this verse?

   "Slander" and "speaks against" (used here twice) are the same Greek word. Think about it: What forms might our slander of another take?

2. In the second sentence, what other way does James describe slander?

   What is James' reason for not slandering one another?

   How might slandering one another result in speaking against and judging the law? (Cf. Leviticus 19:16 and 19:18)

   To "judge" is to decide, to prefer one thing over another, to determine one thing as more valuable than another.

   What does James say coincides with judging the law?

3. (4:12) What is James' second reason for not slandering one another?

Who is the "one Lawgiver and Judge?"

In the context, why might James have chosen those two words ("Lawgiver" and "Judge")?

Likewise, why does he use the words "save and destroy?"

4. What is the implied answer to his question, "Who are you to judge your neighbor?"

Memory Verse: James 4:12
There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

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

Personal Reflection

It is within our nature to evaluate circumstances and people. We draw conclusions based on what we perceive to be true. When do our opinions of others cross a line to sinful attitudes and actions of slander?

How does our pride (or haughty spirit) feed into slander and judgment? What gives us the ability to humbly love and serve one another?

If you are prone to speak against someone, what will help you live in obedience according to this passage?

Think of two or three people who you struggle with the most; people you are perhaps tempted to slander or judge. Pray for them, and pray for the Sprit to enable you to engage them in love.

Thoughts/Questions/Prayer Response