

Week Four (August 22 – 28)

Day One: The Need for Self-Control

Read: James 4:1-10

Reflect:

- 1) James describes fights and quarrels that are destroying the peace within the church. What does he identify as the cause of those fights?

- 2) James tells the church that they “do not have” because they do not:
 - a) Give
 - b) Take
 - c) Ask
 - d) Believe

- 3) James tells the church that they “do not receive” because they:
 - a) aren’t deserving
 - b) ask with wrong motives
 - c) aren’t praying the right formula
 - d) don’t have enough faith

- 4) Use James 4:4 and the following word bank to fill in the blanks:
hatred, friend, adulterous, enemy, friendship
“You _____ people, don’t you know that _____
with the world is _____ toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a
_____ of the world becomes an _____ of God.” (vs.4)

- 5) In Psalm 86:11, King David prays, “Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.” How does James’s command to “purify your hearts, you double-minded” (vs.8) line up with David’s prayer?

- 6) Match the commands with their promises:
 - a) Resist the devil and... _____ he will lift you up
 - b) Come near to God and... _____ he will flee from you
 - c) Humble yourselves before the Lord and... _____ he will come near to you

Memorize: “*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*” James 4:10

Day Two: Judging One Another

Read: James 4:11-12; John 8:2-11

Reflect:

1) Define the word “slander”:

2) Use James 4:11 and the following word bank to fill in the blanks:

law, judgment, keeping, judge, law, judges

“Anyone who speaks against his brother or _____ him, speaks against the _____ and judges it. When you _____ the _____, you are not _____ it, but sitting in _____ on it.”

3) In verse 12, James describes God by two names (what are they?) and says He is able to do two things (what are they?)

Names of God

Abilities of God

a)

a)

b)

b)

4) Based on the passage in John, decide whether the following statements are True or False:

T / F The accused woman was being slandered

T / F The teachers of the law sought justice out of respect for God’s holiness

T / F Jesus saw mercy as an opportunity for repentance

T / F When Jesus chose not to condemn her, he was telling her what she did was okay

5) In John, Jesus tells the people standing in judgment of the adulterous woman “If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” How does this agree with James’s question “But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?” at the end of verse 12?

Memorize: *“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.” James 4:12*

Day Three:

Read: James 4:13-17; Psalm 90:1-6

Reflect:

- 1) Determine whether the following statements about verse 13 are True or False:
 - T / F James is opposed to people traveling
 - T / F James is opposed to people setting an itinerary or schedule
 - T / F James is opposed to people conducting business and establishing commerce
 - T / F James is opposed to wealth and profit
 - T / F James is opposed to people planning their lives without seeking God

- 2) Proverbs 19:21 says, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” What suggestion does James make in verse 15 to highlight this idea?

- 3) According to verse 16, how does James define the habit of omitting God’s role when discussing one’s plans? What does he say about this behavior?

- 4) James describes man’s life as “a mist” in verse 14. What kind of imagery does Moses use in Psalm 90 to describe man? Is this how you look at yourself? What kind of imagery does he use to describe God? Is this how you view God?

Memorize:

“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” James 4:14