

# DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

## LESSON NOTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | GRACE, HUMILITY, & GETTING ALONG (JAMES 4) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

**James chapter 4 teaches us 3 major truths:**

1. The source of conflict is **WITHIN** us.
2. Friendship with the world makes us an enemy of **GOD**.
3. God gives grace to the **HUMBLE**.

### **THE SOURCE OF CONFLICT**

**James 4:1-3 (NLT)... What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.**

- **James is not asking about the symptoms; he is asking about the source.**
  - Most people want to fix the **FRUIT**, but James is going for the **ROOT**.
- **The Greek word for “desires” here is HEDONE — where we get the English word HEDONISM.**
  - It speaks of cravings for self-pleasure and self-satisfaction.
- **We don't always have what we want because we don't ASK God for it.**
- **And even when we ask, we don't get it because our MOTIVES are wrong.**
  - Am I asking to bring God glory, or my own comfort?
  - Am I asking to bless others, or impress others?
  - Am I asking to grow, or to gain?

## **FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD VS. FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

**James 4:4-6 (NLT)... You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**

- **James is not talking about physical adultery. He is talking about SPIRITUAL adultery.**
  - God is the Husband. We are His Bride.
  - When we go chasing after the world, it is spiritual cheating.
  
- **Friendship with the world does not mean having unbelieving friends. It means:**
  - Adopting the world's VALUES as our own.
  - Pursuing the world's definition of SUCCESS.
  - Loving what God HATES.
  - Wanting the approval of CULTURE more than the approval of HEAVEN.
  
- **God gives grace GENEROUSLY.**
  
- **God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the HUMBLE.**
  - Pride blocks the very grace we need. Humility opens the door for grace to flood in.

## **TEN COMMANDS FOR HUMBLING OURSELVES**

**James 4:7-10 (NLT)... So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.**

- **James gives us TEN commands:**
  1. Humble yourselves before GOD.
  2. Resist the DEVIL.
  3. Come close to GOD.
  4. Wash your HANDS (our actions).
  5. Purify your HEARTS (our motives).
  6. Let there be TEARS for what you have done.
  7. Let there be SORROW.
  8. Let there be deep GRIEF.
  9. Let there be sadness instead of LAUGHTER.
  10. Humble yourselves, and He will lift you up in HONOR.

- **SUBMIT to God first, then RESIST the devil.**
  - We can't resist the devil while we're cooperating with him.
- **Grief over sin is a sign of LIFE.**
  - A heart still soft to the Spirit grieves the things that grieve God.
- **The path UP in God's kingdom is always the path DOWN through humility.**

## **DON'T JUDGE EACH OTHER**

**James 4:11-12 (NLT)... Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?**

- **Humble people don't tear each other DOWN.**
- **Speaking evil against someone includes:**
  - Slander, gossip, critical conversations behind their back, harsh judgments about their walk, public exposure of private struggles, and sarcastic put-downs disguised as humor.
- **There is only ONE Judge, and it is not US.**
  - We don't see hearts. We don't know full stories. We can't read motives. We are not without sin ourselves.
- **This does NOT mean we don't have discernment. We can speak truth in love. We can hold each other accountable. But we cannot CONDEMN one another.**

## **DON'T BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW**

James 4:13-17 (NLT)... Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

- James is calling out the arrogance of planning life WITHOUT GOD.
  
- Your life is like the morning FOG. It is here a little while, then it is gone.
  
- Self-confident planning that leaves God out is **BOASTING**.
  - Boasting is evil because it puts SELF where GOD belongs.
  
- It is sin to know what you ought to do, and then **NOT** do it.
  - Sin is not just the **WRONG** things we do. It is also the **RIGHT** things we don't do.
  - *Obedience delayed is disobedience.*