

James 3: 13 - 4:1-12 – Our Political Climate

Today some Christians are more concerned about their circumstances (and next November)

- Are we disciples? Matt. 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16? Preach (proclaim) the Gospel (good news of salvation), make disciples (followers of Christ) and teach them to obey
 - o Are we “Disciplined followers of Jesus”?
- Overview of James – “Camel knees”
 - o Written by James the brother of Jesus – imagine being Jesus’ brother
 - o Exhorts us to Live by faith by living out our faith
 - o Many parallels to his brother Jesus
- Written to Christian Jews by a Christian Jew
- Strong ethical teaching runs throughout the book
 - o Faith that lacked works was empty, vain, and useless
- James's frequently uses the imperative mood (is a verb form which makes a command or a request)
 - o Gives many “do (or don’t do) this and the results will be.....
 - o Indicates his passionate feeling about the issues he faced.
- His fiery words resemble those of an Old Testament prophet.
 - o He shared ethical commands that touched upon both personal morality and social justice.
- Speaking to supposedly “mature” Christians
- Ch. 1 Patience in trials
- Ch. 2 Practices the Word (lives it)
- Ch. 3 Controls their tongue
- Ch. 4 Make peace not trouble
- Ch. 5 Prays

Heavenly Versus Demonic Wisdom – 3:13-18

¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.** ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not **boast** and **lie** against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where **envy** and **self-seeking** exist, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

- False wisdom leads to disorder and every evil practice
- **Me First**

¹⁷ **But** the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

- True wisdom results in good fruit – purity, peace, mercy, impartial and sincere

¹⁸ Now the fruit of **righteousness** is sown in **peace** by those who make **peace**.

- righteousness - Proverbs 11:18
- Seek God's wisdom.
- Admit jealousy and arrogance without trying to cover them up.
- Create a climate of peace wherever God leads you.

Ch. 4

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

- Our conflicts come our own selfishness - sin

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- Pray correctly

⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

**“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.” Proverbs 3:34**

Hebrews 12:1 - Video

Humility Cures Worldliness

⁷ Therefore **submit to** God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.

- Submit then resist the result will be that Satan flees
 - o Not Resist first

⁸ **Draw near to** God and **He will draw** near to you.

- First draw near
 - o Being in the presence of God
- Then He will draw near

Cleanse your hands, *you* sinners; physical (body)
and **purify your hearts**, Soul (our innermost)
you double-minded. (Intellect) can't love God and the world

⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! - Turn away from your sin

- As we draw close to God it becomes evident what that is
- Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.
- God will turn worldly attitude into true repentance

¹⁰ **Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and **He will lift you up**.

- Matthew 23:12

Do Not Judge a Brother

~~¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who ¹³ are you to judge another?~~

— Fruit inspector vs. Condemner of the brethren

Do Not Boast About Tomorrow

~~¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will ¹⁴ go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a **vapor** that appears for a **little time** and **then vanishes away**. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.~~

~~¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.~~

— Pray and act with wisdom and discernment

Application:

1. Know and use Godly wisdom
2. Know and discern the source of interpersonal conflicts
3. Submit to God then resist Satan
4. Draw close to God and He will draw close to us
5. Become like Jesus

TWO TYPES OF WISDOM

WISDOM FROM BELOW	WISDOM FROM HEAVEN
<i>Characterized by:</i>	<i>Characterized by:</i>
Bitter envy (v. 14)	Purity (v. 17)—personal transparency or holiness
Selfish ambition (v. 14)	Peaceable (v. 17)—willing to sacrifice for peace
Boasting (v. 14)	Considerate (v. 17)—gentle, not seeking its own way
Denying the truth (v. 14)	Willing to yield (v. 17)—agreeable, willing to reevaluate, open
Being earthly-minded (v. 15)	Merciful (v. 17)—compassionate
Being unspiritual (v. 15)	Impartial (v. 17)—single-minded toward God and people
From the devil (v. 15)	Sincere (v. 17)—without hypocrisy
<i>Resulting in:</i>	<i>Resulting in:</i>
Disorder (v. 16) Evil practices/actions (v. 16)	Good fruit (v. 17) Righteousness/good actions (v. 18)

NO MIDDLE GROUND!



Faith, Hope, Love ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#)) Love, Joy, Peace . . . ([Galatians 5:22](#)) Abundant Living ([John 10:10](#)) Eternal Life ([John 3:16](#)) Love of Neighbor ([Matthew 7:12](#))

Strife/Quarrels ([James 4:1-3](#)) Materialism ([1 John 2:15-17](#)) Hopelessness ([Ephesians 2:12](#)) Ego-centric Living ([James 4:3](#)) Death ([Proverbs 14:12](#))



The Downward Spiral of our Desires

James 4:1-3

- Unchecked Desires
 - Leads to
- Not asking God
 - Leads to
- Coveting, evil desires, wrong motives
 - Leads to
- Fights and quarrels
 - Leads to
- Life marked by death

God's Voice

- Stills you
- Leads you
- Reassures you
- Enlightens you
- Encourages you
- Comforts you
- Calms you
- Convicts you

Satan's Voice

- Rushes you
- Pushes you
- Frightens you
- Confuses you
- Discourages you
- Worries you
- Obsesses you
- Condemns you