



# JAMES

## Quarrels & Fights

4:1-10

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

# JAMES 4:1-10

Series on James

Jesus Little Brother

Witness Jesus Teaching & Life

Witness to Jesus Death & Resurrection

Leader of Early Church

Writing to 12 Tribes Dispersed

Question today – ‘What causes quarrels and fights among you?’



# JAMES 4:1-10

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.



# JAMES 4:1-10

<sup>5</sup> Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup> But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



# JAMES 4:1-10

## 1. Issue is an Internal One

- passions at war within
- what is within will be evidenced in relationships with others and God

### a) Desire & Do Not Have

- aware and focused on MY desire
- desire can be neutral, normal, yet be evidenced in destructive ways
- unchecked – serious as murder!



# JAMES 4:1-10

## b) Covet and Cannot Obtain

- focused on taking what I see and want
- shows dissatisfaction with what you have been entrusted, view of self – deserve more
- fight and quarrel to obtain it
- convinced you are right in deserving that
  - happiness, better pay, someone who understands me, get mine now
- feeding covetousness (lust) never quenches it – always inflames it larger



# JAMES 4:1-10

## c) Selfish Approach to God

- don't ask – self reliant, I got this one
  - knowing it's not his best for you, but what you want!
- demand things that are not healthy for us
  - not your will – mine be done
- come to God asking for that which benefits me alone, what I believe will satisfy me.  
Without concern for others



# JAMES 4:1-10

## d) Selective Approach to Relationship

- adulterous people – not living up to the conditions of covenant relationship
- picking and choosing – desiring relationship unto salvation, living with an embrace of the world's values and wisdom

\*clear division here – one or the other

- cannot have both embrace and friendship with world's ways, and claim Christ



# JAMES 4:1-10

## 2. You Were Made New!

- while the issue is internal – remember this
  - you died to the old you – sin & self
  - given a new spirit – very life of Christ
  - made alive, made new, new creation
  - God has done this, jealously guards it
  - Gives incredible grace to empower this
- \*Key – posture “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”



# JAMES 4:1-10

## 3. Practical Steps

### a) Submit to God

- yield to the authority of another
- issue of Lordship

### b) Resist the Devil

- know his methods and means, can be on guard, truth shines clarifying light
- lies – John 8:44
- blinds the mind – 2 Cor. 4:4
- masquerades as light – 2 Cor. 1:13-15



# JAMES 4:1-10

- false signs and wonders – 2 Thess 2:9
- tempts to sin, test God – Matt 4, 2 Cor. 11

## c) Draw Near to God

- pursue, time and energy, focus

## d) Cleanse Your Hands

- own your junk
- repentance and reconciliation

## e) Purify your Hearts

- 1 John 1:9 – confess, repent and accept



# JAMES 4:1-10

## f) Allow Brokenness

- allowing God to reveal His perspective
- broken by injustice, sin, the lost, affected

## 4. Promise of God

- "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."
- allow the lifting up, providing and exaltation to be given not taken!



# JAMES 4:1-10

## So What?

### 1. Real Issue

- we live with fighting and quarreling
- evidenced in all our relationships
- must understand – inner issue

### 2. Unchecked it Destroys

- unity among family of faith
- witness in the world
- others around us
- selves



# JAMES 4:1-10

## 3. Big Issue

- New Life in Us – are we embracing that?
- Settle first the ability for God's grace to bring the change needed
- posture – pride vs. humility

## 4. Integration of Steps

- submission
- resisting
- drawing near
- cleansing hands
- purifying hearts
- brokenness

