

James
Women's Bible Study Revised 2022-24

Lesson 12: James 4:1-17
Warning Against Worldliness

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You 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. ⁵Or 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"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" – ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

1) Reread James verses 3:17-18. What is a harvest of righteousness?

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

2) How do we go about producing righteous deeds? Explain your answer. On what verse or verses are you basing your answer?

3) (James 3:18) This "harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." Who are those who make peace?

4) Read James 4:1-4. What does friendship with the world look like in a believer's life?

5) James uses the phrases “adulterous people” and “enemy of God” to describe those that are friends of the world. Why? What are the implications of these names?

6) Read James 4:5. The quote in this verse is not a direct OT quote, but a “general composite of OT teaching” (MacArthur). Explain this quote in context “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he made to dwell in us.”

- **Who is “he”?**

- **What/What is “the spirit”?**

- **Why does “he” yearn jealously?**

7) If we find ourselves as friends of this world, our hope is in verse 6. What is the implication of God's role and our role in this reconciliation?

8) In verses 7-10, James elaborates on our human responsibility with nine positive imperatives (commands) for believers. What are they? Explain each on in the context of our relationship to God.

9) Compare James 4:11-12 with James 1:26 and James 3:1-12. Are they saying the same thing? Are these similar but different topics?

10) Read Proverbs 31:26. Why must she open “her mouth with wisdom” and have “the teaching of kindness” on her tongue? How does this relate to James 4:11-12?

11) James continues in chapter 4 verses 13-17 admonishing about our speech. What “heart issues” are revealed in the type of speech discussed in these verses?

12) What are the implications to our Christian conduct that spoken of in James 4:13-17?