



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 4:1-12

Lesson 10

*“Jesus, I come before Your altar and there I kneel down
Jesus, I see the cross it stands above me
Where Your blood flowed down
Lord I know that You resist the Proud, take my heart I lay down
Let Your grace fill this place
Let our eyes see Your face
Spirit of love fall from above, descend on us like a dove.”*

Ian Thompson

DAY ONE: Review and Overview

1. The *wise man* is to show his wisdom by his behavior. True wisdom comes only from *above*. How can we recognize godly wisdom at work in the life of the believer?

2. According to **Job 28:12-28** where can wisdom be found?
 - a. What will be the results of *understanding*?

 - b. Godly wisdom is available to all believers. How has the study of **James 3:13-18** awakened you to a deeper desire for *His wisdom* to be at work in your life?

3. Prayerfully read **James 4:1-12**. If ever Christians needed to be confronted with **James 4:1-12**, it is now. James gives a strong exhortation in these verses. He asks some tough questions and he provides his own tough answers. What would your response be if James were writing this to you?

- a. Mark the paragraph divisions in **James 4:1-12** as follows and title each paragraph. You will see the main subject of each section by looking for key repeated words or words necessary for the text to make sense. List the key words for each segment in the column under the Scripture reference. Then title each segment.

James 4:1-3	James 4:4-6	James 4:7-10	James 4:11-12
Segment Title	Segment Title	Segment Title	Segment Title

DAY TWO: James 4:1-3

1. James' follows his **chapter 3** descriptions of *wisdom not from above* and *wisdom from above* by showing the effect of ungodly wisdom in **chapter 4**. The opening questions in **verse 1** introduce the subject of this paragraph. What are these questions?
 - a.
 - b.

2. Using your study tools look up the definitions for the words that James uses to describe the source of conflict among Christians in verse 2.
 - a. **Lust** (#1937)

 - b. **Kill** (#5407)

 - c. **Fight** (#3164)

 - d. **War** (#4170)

- e. *Amiss* (#2560)
 - f. *Pleasures – lust* KJV (#2237)
 - g. Summarize in your own words the difference between the lusts mentioned in **verse 1** and **verse 2**.
3. Even though this could include a desire for something good, the method employed to obtain fulfillment mentioned in **verses 2-3** is wrong. What are some *results* of using these methods to obtain fulfillment.
 4. Lusts in other versions are evil desires, pleasures, passions and strong or sensual, worldly or fleshly desires. What kinds of lusts could cause conflicts among believers according to the following verses?
 - a. **Luke 20:46**
 - b. **John 12:43**
 - c. **1 Timothy 6:10**
 5. James recognizes that external fights start from within. They stem from desires to have something to please ourselves regardless of the effect on others or the consequences. According to the following verses, how is the Christian to relate to these kinds of desires?
 - a. **1 Peter 4:2**
 - b. **1 John 2:15-17**
 - c. How would focusing on doing the will of God cause the lusts for the things of the world to fade?
 6. What does **James 4:3** say is a deterrent to answered prayer?
 - a. Why were the prayers of those in **Isaiah 59:1-2** not answered?
 - b. If our desires are in line with God's will, we have His promise our prayers will be answered. How will **Psalm 37:4** help you with having the right desires?
 - c. Read **John 14:13-14**. Many Christians take this as a blank check from God. How does **James 4:3** refute the false teaching of “*name it and claim it?*”

- d. What is our confidence according to **1 John 5:14-15**?
7. How does delighting yourself in the Lord affect your desires?

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.”*
Isaiah 26:3-4

DAY THREE: James 4:4-6

1. Prayerfully read **James 4:4-6**. We often think of worldliness in terms of actions. Keeping in mind that chapter 4 is a continuation of chapter 3, how does James describe worldliness as it is exhibited through ungodly wisdom according to **James 3:15-16**?

2. According to the following scriptures, what are the results of worldliness or *friendship of the world*?
 - a. **Matthew 13:22**
 - b. **James 3:16b**
 - c. **1 John 2:15-17**
 - d. How do you think an attitude of worldliness begins to develop in a Christian’s life?
 - e. What are some struggles that Christian women may have with continual worldly influences?

3. What is the answer to our struggles in the flesh according to the following Scriptures?
 - a. **Galatians 2:20**
 - b. **Galatians 5:24**
 - c. **Romans 6:11-13**

4. **Adultery** is a strong term. *Friendship of the world* is a betrayal to God. God’s love for His bride (all Christians) has been described in the Old Testament as zeal. Zeal can be described as an intense desire to possess. Many commentators believe that **James 4:5** speaks of the feelings that Christians provoke in the Lord when they choose to be a *friend of the world*. The Holy Spirit yearns over us with a holy envy or jealousy to have us wholly to the Lords. He does not want us to have a divided love anymore than a bridegroom would want his bride to have other lovers. How does God describe Himself in **Exodus 20:5**?

5. Look up the following Scriptures and record how they relate to this subject in your own words
- Matthew 6:24-26**
 - Mark 8:38**
 - Colossians 3:2**
6. How does **Hosea 2:19-20** speak to you when you think about the deep love that God has towards you?
- Share how understanding God's love can keep you from compromising and becoming a *friend of the world*.

*“...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love;
therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.”
Jeremiah 31:3*

7. Since our selfish desires draw us away from loving the Lord and towards a friendship of the world, what does God give that will enable us to stand strong and be wholly His according to **James 4:6**? _____.
- What one word describes how this is obtained from **James 4:6** and **1 Peter 5:5**? _____.
8. *God resists the proud*. The word resist is actually a military term meaning to take one's position against an enemy, to meet in battle, to set oneself against. This is not a passive resistance that God takes, but is an active battle that He declares against the proud. The sin of pride hinders us from appropriating God's grace. Look up the following verses and record what they reveal about pride:
- Psalm 138:6**
 - Proverbs 16:5**
 - Proverbs 16:18-19**
 - How does pride affect the Christians' walk with the Lord?
9. **James 4:6** refers to **Proverbs 3:34**, *Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble*. Read the story of the Pharisee and the publican in **Luke 18:10-14**. Contrast their attitudes and God's reaction to their prayers.

*He that is down needs fear no fall, he that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall have God to be his guide.” John Bunyan*

DAY FOUR: James 4:7-10

1. Prayerfully read **James 4:7-10**. James provides the solution to the problem of the lusts that war in our members, which create the wars and fighting described in **verses 1-4**. What is our part and the result of our obedience according to these verses?

OUR PART	PROMISED RESULT
James 4:7	
James 4:8	
James 4:9	
James 4:10	

2. Once we have experienced God’s grace in our hearts we become targets of the enemy and we are vulnerable to temptation. Pride further opens us up to satanic attacks. What is the remedy for this according to **James 4:7**?

- a. How do we do this according to the following verses?

- 1) **Luke 4:4**
- 2) **Luke 10:17-19**
- 3) **Ephesians 6:11-13**

3. **James 4:8** instructs us to draw *near to God*. What is the result of drawing near to God according to the following verses?

- a. **Hebrews 10:22**
- b. **James 4:8**

*“But it is good for me to draw near to God;
I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,
That I may declare all Your works.”
Psalm 73:28*

4. In **James 4:8b** James uses very strong words to tell us what to do so we can draw near to God. List them here:

- a. “ _____, you sinners;
- b. and _____, you double-minded.”

5. What reactions to sin does James call for in **James 4:9**?

6. Using your study tools take a closer look at what these words mean.
 - a. **Lament** – *afflicted* KJV (#5003)

 - b. **Mourn** (#3996)

 - c. **Weep** (#2799)

 - d. **Gloom** – *Heaviness* KJV (#2726)

7. James is dealing here with an outward and inward cleansing of the Christian when he says, “cleanse your hands, you sinners.” Jewish believers would have easily understood this. Under the Old Testament Law hand washing was a ritual duty of the priests before performing their ceremonial duties (See **Exodus 30:20-21**). It represented purification from the defilement of the world before approaching a Holy God. This cleansing of the hands was also practiced in Jesus’ time and not only by the priests (see **Mark 7:3-4**). It is still practiced by “observant” Jews who wash their hands ritualistically upon rising in the morning and before eating a full meal. After the ritual is completed, a blessing is recited. In James 4:8b it is used in a figurative sense concerning our outward conduct; it is symbolic of an outward cleansing. The hands represent what we do. We have been cleansed from the root of sin through Christ’s blood and we stand pure before God in His righteousness. But living in a fallen world, we, too, are contaminated or stained by the pollution that surrounds us. We all need daily cleansing! How can we practically cleanse our way according to **Psalms 119:9**?

8. James’ concern was not just with their outer cleansing but with inward purity as well. What does he tell the double-minded to do in **James 4:8b**?
 - a. How will the following verses contribute to keeping a pure heart?
 - 1) **1 John 3:2-3**

 - 2) **1 Peter 1:22**

 - 3) **Psalms 119:10-11**

9. Many Christians today treat sin with a casual attitude as though sin had not caused our Lord to be crucified. They go along laughing, indulging, and enjoying the same stuff the world delights in. In **James 4:9** James pleads with the readers to see their sins from God’s perspective. Our sins grieve the heart of God. This verse is not to take away the true Christian joy but to startle double-minded believers into a sober recognition of the seriousness of their sin. This verse demands deep repentance. Scan **Psalms 51** and write a few phrases that reveal David’s attitude of heart towards his sin and the depth of his repentance.

10. Consider **James 4:10** in light of **2 Chronicles 7:14**. What do you see?
11. Is there any area of your life that you are a *friend of the world*? If so, how will you apply this study in **James 4:7-10** to your life? Go back and read the passage one more time before moving on.

*“Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat
I wait, blessed Lord, at Thy crucified feet.
By faith, for my cleansing I see Thy blood flow
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”
J. Nicholson*

DAY FIVE: James 4:11-12

1. Prayerfully read **James 4:11-12**. To understand the context of these verses, we need to see it in relationship to **James 4:6**. What do you understand from **James 4:6** that prompts you to be obedient to **James 4:11a**?
 - a. Humility is not a virtue much admired, appreciated, or advocated in today’s “*me first*” society. Prayerfully read **Philippians 2:1-11** and as you see the example that Jesus set for us, think about **Philippians 2:3** in light of the current philosophy. What differences do you see?
 - b. How will the humility reflected in *esteeming others* keep you from speaking evil about them?
2. Most of us recognize failure in the area of **James 4:11a (Romans 3:23)**, but when we see it in the light of **James 4:11b-12**, it heightens our awareness of the seriousness of this offense against fellow believers. Explain what we should do when we fail to be obedient to God’s command of loving one another by speaking evil of another believer according to **James 4:7-10**.
3. James points at the seriousness of speaking evil of others in **James 4:11-12**. When we indulge in unkind criticism, gossip, or putting down others, we don’t think of it in the terms of these verses. See this sin from God’s perspective through His Word by writing **James 4:11** phrase by phrase beginning with:

“Do not speak _____, _____.

He who speaks _____ of a _____ and _____ his _____, speaks _____ of the law and _____ the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a _____ of the law but a _____. There is _____, who is _____ to _____ and to _____. Who are you to _____ another?” NKJV

 - a. What law is this verse speaking of? (See **James 1:25; 2:8-12** and **John 15:12-17**).

4. Prayerfully read **Matthew 7:1-5**. In what way does Jesus' counsel prompt you to be obedient to **James 4:11**?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus called the man trying to remove the plank from his brother's eye a hypocrite?

5. What do the following verses teach about evil speaking?
 - a. **Luke 18:9-14**

 - b. **Ephesians 4:31**

 - c. **1 Peter 2:1-2**

 - d. There are times when we have the responsibility of letting another believer know when they are in error/sin because their influence is endangering another believer. What is the difference between this and speaking evil of believers?

6. According to **James 4:11-12**, when we take on the role of judge by speaking evil of one another, and we recognize that it is equivalent to speaking evil of the law and judging the law as not being worthy of our obedience, we are refusing to submit to God's authority over us. James emphasizes this by his statement in **James 4:12a**. Who gave this law according to **Leviticus 19:1**?
 - a. When we refuse to obey this law, Whose authority are we usurping? _____.
 - b. To Whose authority are we to submit ourselves according to **James 4:7**? _____.
 - 1) How is speaking evil of one another a refusal to submit to God's authority?

7. When we judge others by speaking evil of them, we are also relying on our ability to accomplish something concerning another brother or sister rather than trusting in God's ability. This is pride! What does **James 4:12b** reveal about *His* ability?
 - a. What does **Matthew 10:28** reveal about God's ability?
 - b. What do you learn about judging others in relationship to God's ability from **Romans 14:4**?

- c. For a glimpse of God's ability read Hannah's prayer of rejoicing from **1 Samuel 2:3, 6-9**. What do you see? Use other versions if you can.
8. Briefly summarize how **James 4:11-12** exposes the lack of obedience to the command of **James 4:10a** as well as the law of love.
- a. What do you learn from **Micah 6:8** that amplifies our need for humility?
9. Take heart if you feel you'll never get it right ~ you are in good company! You and I can never get it right! Remember *we all fall short*; but it is God *that is able*. What does **Philippians 2:13** say that encourages you today?
- a. Let this lesson be a "pager" from the Lord that causes you to check in with Him about your motives and words before you speak. Choose a scripture verse as your "pager" number!

*"He is able, more than able
To accomplish more than I could every dream
He is able, more than able
To make me what He wants me to be."*