

## JAMES 4:5-10 Lesson 23

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever” (Psalm 111:10).

**Assignment:** In the next week read through the entire book of James at least once preferably in one sitting. Also read through James 4 several times. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions with the text only. Don't worry if you cannot find all the answers. We will discuss them next week.

### Questions:

- 1) REVIEW: What was James speaking of in James 3:13-18? Do you think there is any relationship between those verses and James 4:1-10? Explain
- 2) REVIEW: Looking at James 4:1-4, what is the source of our conflicts? How do our desires or lusts relate to worldliness? In context, what do you think James means by “friendship with the world” (4:4) and what does the resulting behavior look like?
- 3) REVIEW: From 4:4, what does God through James call a believer or so-called believer who is a friend of the world? What James wants us to know concerning friendship with the world from 4:4?

*Grammatical note:* Verse five is an incredibly difficult verse to interpret. The following interpretations are some possible interpretations, which as you'll see are quite different from each other. 1) From NASB 77: *"He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"*? 2a) From NASB 77 note: *The Spirit which He has made to dwell in us jealously desires us* 2b) From NAS 95 note: *The spirit which He has made to dwell in us lusts with envy* 3) From NKJ: *The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"*? *Interpretive Note:* Is it possible that because we are at His, having been married to Christ, with His Spirit given as a pledge of this relationship and the consummation of it, could it be James is reminding believers of their true husband, is jealous in light what was spoken of in 4:4?

- 4) Read Duet 6:13-19 and 2Cor. 11:1-3, then looking at the context in James 4:1-4 and 4:6-10, and the above notes, what do you think James means in 4:5? How should this make us think when we are tempted to commit spiritual adultery with the world? Does the Scripture “speak to no purpose” or literally does it ‘speak in vain’ in your life?
- 5) Looking at 4:6, how does pride and humility relate to do with what James has already spoken of in 4:1-5? (e.g. Why the contrast as indicated by the word “But”?)
- 6) Somewhere in 4:1-10 there are two verses that speak of humility. Find those two verses, and then from the verses in between those two make a list of observations concerning what actual humility looks like in real time.
- 7) List the commands given in James 4:7 and the resulting promise.
- 8) What does first Peter 5:8-9 say? How does this relate to 1Peter 5:6-7?

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- 9) What does Paul say in Eph. 4:28? How does this relate to James 4:1-5 and then 4:6?
- 10) List the command and promise in James 4:8a. How does the second half of 4:8 relate to the first half?
- 11) In James 1:8 the same word translated “doubleminded” in 4:8 is used. Answer the following questions:
- a) How does James describe the doubleminded in 1:8?
  - b) Is the concept of humility spoken of anywhere near this idea of doubleminded in 1:8?
  - c) Looking at 4:8 and thinking of the context of chapter 4 so far, what do you think James means by being doubleminded?
- 12) In James 4:8b, James gives two parallel statements. Make observations concerning which parts are parallel to which.
- 13) Thinking of the context so far, what does James mean by what he says in 4:9?
- 14) List the command and resulting promise given in 4:10.
- 15) Looking at our entire passage, explain what walking in pride looks like.
- 16) What does humility have to do with genuine confession of sin and what does this look like? When you confess, is it in the context of humility or pride? How does God respond to each (See 4:6 and 10)?
- 17) Are you walking in pride, being doubleminded, seeking your own desires, like the world does, as evidenced by quarrels and conflicts abounding in your life? Are you moving the Lord to righteous jealousy? Or are you actively humbling yourself before the Lord confessing your sins, drawing near to Him in humility, resisting Satan and his temptations, as evidenced by a contrite humble heart? Which describes you better?