

James 4:1-10

29 Jan 2017

Jim Theimer

Where are we

- Read the passage 4:1-10
- Last week we looked at a passage that contrasted true and false wisdom and their fruits
- What is the result of false wisdom? Conflict

A Problem

- All are sinners, so this applies to everyone
- We don't read this to fix others
 - I have the selfish ambition to fix other so they will praise my wonderfulness
 - They don't see my wonderfulness so I am angry with them
- We are all sinners being sanctified, so Jesus is the wonderful one.

This is wisdom literature

- Look at Proverbs 26:4,5
 - Things that look like direct statements need to be seen as a part of what is going on
 - For example 4:3 there may be many causes of unanswered prayer.

So what is going on

- In a clear case of abuse we would not apply to the person being abused
- Not a way of shutting down dialog
 - If you have a problem it is because you are seeking your own, rather than hearing them out
- This is here to get us to do self examination
- Math 7:3-5 it is here to help us take the log out of our own eye.

4:1-2

- Where is the conflict?
 - Among you, so in the church
- Where does it come from?
 - Our desires for pleasure Rom 6: 12,13
- What do these desires lead to?
 - You lust (have desires) you desire the wrong things or the right things to a wrong degree, so you murder
 - Compare Math 5: 21-22 Sinful anger
 - We envy (desire leading to resentment) , so we quarrel

Prayer 4:2b,3

- Why is this here?
 - The question opens up our heart
 - The point is that their desire and trust is in the things of this world
 - If their desire and trust is in the world, they don't pray. It shows what was really in their hearts
 - They pray but they are not doing so because they love God, but to get the things they want

The heart of the matter v.4

- You adulteresses
 - Our joy, hope, trust were supposed to be in God
- Friendship with the world is having the desires
- Friendship with the world
 - So we are like the wife who is playing around
- We can't have it both ways. We have to choose. Friendship with the world is to be an enemy of God.
- These responses show where our heart really is

The grieving husband v. 5

- What is the picture here?
- This is a Biblical Basis for the last statement
- We are not in some sort of open marriage with Christ, he wants our hearts

The promise v. 6

- All is not lost
- He gives grace
 - The friendship with the world is here called pride
 - Love of God is Humility
 - How would you describe this? How is Love of God Humility and Love of the world pride?

The right path of repentance v.7-10

- What do you see here about repentance?
- Submit
 - presumably we may not get what we want
 - Submission shows who we really love and trust
- Resist the Devil
 - He will flee us
 - Love of the world is what the Devil wants

v.8

- Draw near to God
 - We will get what we desire, fellowship with God
 - So this is not a promise of getting our worldly desires
 - Sinners cleans your hands
 - Sinners emphasizes actions
- Purify your hearts you double minded
 - Emphasizes our hearts
 - Double minded from 1:8 trying to trust two things
- So both our hearts and actions

A picture of repentance v.9

- How should we respond when we really see that even if we pay lip service to God we haven't lived that way
- Be miserable
- Morn
- They had false joy and laughter
 - Emphasize they had anger and envy with a kind of joy and laughter
- Gloom
- Do we respond to our sin this way?
 - If we don't, do we see it as sin? Do we love our Lord?

v. 10

- Perhaps to summarize
 - Humble, as above that is to Love God
 - We will have fellowship with him. We will be exalted
- Compare to beatitudes
- Math 5:3-5
- Concern that we don't turn exalted as a formula for getting what we desired in v 1.

Discussion

- I don't want to slam other people as sinners
- But the meaningful discussion means being open about what we have done
- And we don't just want to slam Other People's mistakes so.....
- If leadership by example is the only real leadership
- And if we all are sinners and so all have our stories
- And this is a good Segway to next week

My issues

- What does it mean to be a good professional employee and make a living
 - Am I really trusting in God, or am I trusting my ability to make a living?
 - Am I really doing this for God's glory, or for the praise of men?
 - How do I respond when things either due to my sins or the sins of others don't go my way?
 - I think most people can relate to this struggle
 - Is it God's kingdom or my kingdom I building?

Another example

- Do I really want my kids to behave because I love them and love God, or because I want the praise for being a good parent?
- Do I really talk to people about their children's behavior because I love them and I love God, or to build myself up in some sort of pecking order?