

## Conclusion

- A. Pay attention to what you love and how much you love it.
  - i. Proverbs 4:23
  
  - ii. Psalm 73:25
  
- B. Peter's Rebuke of Jesus (Mark 8:33-34)

## LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How does James 4:1-5 answer questions like: *What is the biggest obstacle in your relationship with God? What is the greatest hindrance to having peaceful relationships with others? What hinders your prayers and your prayer life?*
- How does the conflict of 4:1-2 compare with the peace described in 3:12-18? What might this say about the significance of the role desires play in our spiritual maturity?
- Why should it not be shocking for James to refer to believers who are following after pleasure as adulteresses? What might this tell us about James' view of the church?
- Why do you think James K. A. Smith says, *"What do you want? ...It is the first, last, and most fundamental question of Christian discipleship"*? Do you think James 4:1-5 lends support to this idea?
- Discuss the statement: *Discipleship is about guarding your heart, being intentional about what we love.*
- Does your idea of following Jesus conflict with the cross and suffering? Are you, as Peter was, behind Jesus rebuking Him, trying to manipulate Him, or behind him to follow him in self-denial, taking up your own suffering of injustice? (Mark 8:33-34)

## Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 11)

### A Lover's Quarrel

Jerry Cisar — July 24, 2016

Text: James 4:1-6a

## Introduction

James K. A. Smith: *"What do you want? That's the question. It is the first, last, and most fundamental question of Christian discipleship."*

- John 1: 38
- Mark 10:36, 51

## I. Our Broken Relationships with Others (1-2b)

*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

### A. The Great Hindrance to Our Spiritual Maturity

- i. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
  
- ii. The Question
  - a) *Wars and battles*
  
  - b) James 3:13
  
- iii. The Answer

The wars on the outside come from a war on the inside.

- 1 Peter 2:11

B. How do desires battling inside produce wars and battles outside? (4:2ab)

i. "Killing" starts with **desires unfulfilled**.

ii. When you can't obtain what you want, when you don't get it, or when God seems to withhold it... you kill, battle, and engage in war in your relationships!

## II. Our Broken Relationship with God (4:2c-5)

A. A Broken Relationship with God is a Faith Problem.

i. **Faith problem # 1:** They had not been bringing their desires to God in prayer!

a) Strong faith, a strong relationship with God, is the kind that brings everything to God in prayer.

➤ Psalm 73 A fractured relationship with God that grew out of envy and not going to God with it.

■ Psalm 73:3-5; 12-14

➤ His restored relationship to God, his faith adjusted his desires. (Psalm 73:25)

b) "Ask and you will receive." (Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:10; John 16:24)

➤ Matthew 21:21-22

➤ John 15:7-8

ii. **Faith problem # 2:** When they had prayed, they did so with evil intent.

B. "You adulteresses..."

i. Why does James call the church adulteresses?

a) Ezekiel 23 (*part.* 23:37)

b) Hosea

c) James 1:1

ii. Why does God call His people adulteresses?

Our pursuit of *idolatrous-desires* is an affair with another god. It is adultery; unfaithfulness.

C. God wants a faithful lover in His bride. (4)

i. Abraham's faith made him the friend of God (James 2:23).

ii. Love relationship with God (Proverbs 5:19; 7:18)

D. God is a jealous husband for our relationship with Him. (5)

i. Genesis 2:7

ii. Zechariah 8:2-3

## III. God's Offer of Reconciliation (4:6a)

A. "But He gives greater grace."

i. Romans 5:20

ii. Hosea 2:14-20