

(Vs 4-5) We are “married” to Christ (Romans 7), so to be “friends” with the world is to commit “spiritual adultery” We are warned in the scriptures that we have a “wandering spirit”

(Vs 6) This is a reference to the OT. We are taught to look at the difference between the proud and the humble. God is exceedingly gracious to the humble, but actively works against the prideful. This is the motivation for going to God humbly!

Often we deal with the fruit when we should be looking at the root, God is directing James to burn through all the “religious rhetoric” and expose the prideful hearts to stop their “evil tongues” Let us deal with our hearts!

Friday: James 4:7-10 (Proverbs 9-10)

James doesn't just tear down, but he shows the way to be built up.

(Vs 7) Submit to God in every area of life.

(Vs 8) Cleanse your hands (change your ways), you “double minded”

“Double-minded” This phrase is used twice (James 1:8). The context tells us it is NOT a man who is a hypocrite but “undecided” “half-in – half out” This leads to living both lifestyles (saved/unsaved) and makes one “unstable in all his ways” (does neither well) It can refer to a person who is unsaved, but trying to “live” the Christian life.

*Vs 8 – In context is a call to “fully commit” Have you “fully committed?” Are you “half-in?”

(Vs 9-10) James is advocating true heart confession. He is advocating what David did (Psalms 51). True confession is not over “getting caught” but grieving over sin whether or not we are “caught.”

God will NEVER turn down a repentant sinner. He remembers we are but dust and He is ever merciful. (Read Vs 6 again)

Daily Devotions

James Week 2

Monday James 3:1-5 (Proverbs 1-2)

James continues to speak about the effects of “true religion.” Here we see it will affect the tongue.

(Vs1) This is extremely practical. To put it simply: “Don't put yourself over much” Too many times we have an opinion about something that we don't need to have. It is outside our “area” We are asking for trouble when we have opinions on things outside our “area”

(Vs 2) This is a comparative statement. If we could control our tongue (the hardest thing to control) we could control every part of our life. Have you ever been maligned? We all know what a tongue can do...James tells us of the danger.

(Vs 3-5) Horses are controlled by a little bit, and ships from a small helm... the tongue is the same way, it is small but can create a BIG mess!

Every Christian should strive to let their “faith” control their tongue!

Tuesday: James 3:6-8 (Proverbs 3-4)

(Vs 6) The tongue is a “world of iniquity” this is “hyperbole” (*an extravagant statement*) It means it is in “a league of its own” ... there is whole world full of sin in the tongue.

Notice it says it defiles the whole body and “sets on fire the course of nature.” The course of nature is sin and destruction; the tongue (spoken and heard) stirs up this world of sin and destruction in the speakers and the hearers. The bible says the origin of this practice is hell (Vs 6)

I imagine this refers to the serpent in the garden when he used his words to defile man. We follow in his ways when we speak gossip and slander.

(Vs 7-8) In Myrtle Beach, I once saw a man with a giant Boa Constrictor draped around his neck. I didn't want to even go near it! Every type of animal can be tamed, but our tongue can never be tamed, we must watch it every moment.

Make it a practice to use your words for good and not evil. (Eph 4:29)

Wednesday: James 3:9-18 (Proverbs 5-6)

(Vs 9-12) James points out some things that are unequal. We bless God and curse man made in God's image? Our mouth speaks both blessings and cursing? Can a fountain do this? Can a fig tree bring forth berries?

James is using logic hoping to strike a chord in their conscience that not all is well with them. It seems that these people had a problem that we have. We are busy and never meditate on things such as "our faith" or "our lifestyle in light of our profession" Doing these things will convict us and motivate us to walk right.

(Vs 13) Here James presses home his point. If there is any with understanding, with wisdom, let him show his faith in his lifestyle, in this context, in your words.

(Vs 14) On the opposite side, if our heart is full of bitterness and envy, we will speak of our heart. In the OT, the heart was also another way to speak of our mind, our thoughts. I believe that interpretation is true here as well. If I think ill of you or envy you, it will come out in my words about you.

(Vs 15-18) It appears that teachers under the guise of "wisdom" were teaching, talking with bitterness and envy in their heart (Vs 14) James in Vs 13 defined what true wisdom was (Good lifestyle)

What does it look like when people are speaking with "false wisdom?"

(Vs 16) There is confusion and every evil work. Evil is personal damage usually with the tongue. This happens in a church when seemingly "wise" people begin "talking" to others, having you over to discuss "concerns," in the church, asking you to "pray" about a juicy piece of gossip. All under the guise of "wisdom" Vs 15 is God's view on this.

What does the "wisdom from above" look like?

(Vs 17) The wisdom from God is concerned with purity but is also gentle, full mercy and good fruits, submissive, without hypocrisy.

(Vs 18) A crop of righteousness is the result of "wisdom from above" Do you see the contrast from James. "Two wisdoms" "Two talkers," one type is from God, one type is "devilish." One results in "evil works" one brings about a "harvest of righteousness" This goes back to what our Saviour said (Matthew 7:15-20). May God give us discernment to recognize truth!

Thursday: James 4:1-6 (Proverbs 7-8)

(Vs 1-3) Only a Jewish man like James could tread where this chap treads. The Jews were fighting people; they had many wars with the Romans. James points out that these wars were merely religious facades for their wicked hearts (under the pretense of religious zeal)

Such is the case with any "good scrap" some people join in a good fight because they are insidious at heart. Aaron and Miriam secretly envied Moses but they complained about his wife (Numbers 12)

(Vs 4-11) Their real problem was they were fighting God, but it manifests itself in many ways, but the root was they were fighting God. We could say their heart was the root and the fighting was the fruit