

James Part 10

James 4 NKJV

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

“Humbling ourselves and getting right with God must result in our getting right with other people. When we are right with other people, it will show in the way we talk about them. So we must not speak evil of one another and not judge our brother.” (Guzik)

- This sin is wrong for two reasons. First, it breaks the royal law that we should love one another. Second, it takes the right of judgment that only God has.
- On the topic of judgment here, notice the exact wording James uses...

Vs. 11 Do not **speak evil** of one another, brethren. He who **speaks evil** of a brother and judges his brother, **speaks evil** of the law and judges”

Speak evil: translates the ancient Greek word katalalia. *“Katalalia is the sin of those who meet in corners and gather in little groups and pass on confidential information which destroy the good name of those who are not there to defend themselves.” (Barclay)*

- The kind of judgment that James is speaking of here was not the kind that confronts in love to restore. The kind of judgment that James is speaking of here was meant to destroy the person.

- This tells me there were some who were slandering and condemning, and James knew it had to stop.
- The kind of judgement that is slanderous and condemning is ungodly but there is a different kind of judgment - that is Godly.

Jesus said in

Matthew 7

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? **17** Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

- With this we know we are not called to Judge but we are called to be fruit inspectors.

Example - Be a fruit inspector of:

Who you partner with in business

Who you allow your kids to hang out with

Who you trust enough to open up to and confide in

Who you date if your single

Anyone that tries to get close to you and your family

Vs. 11b

He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

- When we judge our brother, we in effect put ourselves over the law as judge over it rather than placing the word of God over us in submission to it.

Illustration: Bible

There is a part of judgement that we sometimes miss: That is only God, the true judge, can decide Heaven or Hell, the blessing or the curse. His judgements are eternal, both for good and bad.

Vs. 13-16

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **14** whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15** Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” **16** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

- James rebuked the kind of thinking that lives and makes its plans apart from God’s plans

Vs. 14

whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- **Question:** What if you pray about something and instead of sensing God wants you to go for it; God gives you a peace not to?
- You realize God is already in tomorrow and we really don’t have a clue...

- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was making plans on Friday too, but on Saturday he met Jesus.

Story: I was the Youth Pastor at Pagosa Springs First Assembly of God. The church was busting at the seams and Pastor Micah was praying about a building project, it was August, 2001.

“There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass – one is that God knows, and the other is that we do not know.”

(Spurgeon)

- There are times when God says **go**, but there are also times when God gives you a Holy Ghost contentment to **stay put**.

14b “For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

Illustration: Water Vapor

We are reminded of this by what Jesus says:

Luke 12

16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. **17** He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. **19** And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Vs. 15 Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

What James is saying to these believers is this:

When we give our lives to Jesus, it’s important for us to learn a new orientation and it looks something like this:

- Lord what do you think about this?
- Is this ok with you?
- Lord if I do this, will you go with me, will you help me?

It goes back to this whole “I am not my own, I’ve been bought with a price”.

- James is saying to us, when we make our own plans without regard to the Holy Spirits, we carry on just like the world.
- I saw a bumper sticker a car that said: “If God is your co-pilot, consider changing seats with Him.”

Note: If you are new in your walk with God. This is not a scary thing, rather the opposite is true. When we submit our plans to God, things go better, you feel better and you sleep better. When you give it to God your stress level drops, because it’s not all on you, you have a consultant called the Holy Spirit who happens to be the best business partner/life coach ever.

- Difficulty and bad decisions are more easily avoided when we bring God into the decision.

Vs. 15 Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

The real heart of the verse is in the quote, “If the Lord wills...”

- God has a will for each of our lives...
- It's important for me to remember when the Lord called me and what he said.

Story: 19 yrs old/ my last year at Youth Convention/ Arkansas Convention Center in Little Rock.

- Life is full of opportunities to distract us from God's will is for our lives...
- The Devil will not pass up an opportunity to distract you from God wants...

Vs. 17

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

- James gives warning to these believers that on the other side of surrender to God's will is a deliberate attempt to go the other direction.
- For me to know the good I should do and not do it, is willful disobedience, and disobedience to God is sin.
- This is the taking it a step further than what James mentions early; carelessly doing whatever. This is not carelessness, this deliberate sin.

Jesus told a story with a similar point in Luke 12:41-48. The story is about servants and how they obeyed or disobeyed the master in his absence. Jesus concluded the story with this application: **Vs. 48** “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more”

- This verse rings in my spirit often.
- I am so thankful for the deposit of the Holy Spirit in my life.
- I am so thankful for God’s Mercy and Grace poured out on me.
- I know that without Him I am nothing, but with Him anything is possible.
- I know when we get to the end and we look back we will see how God helped us through. He didn’t just get us started but he walked with us every step of the way.

- I want to be that good soil Jesus spoke of in the Parable of the Sower that gave back 100 fold what was sown. To Honor Him and stay faithful to the end.

Closing:

Communion