

Sermon Notes: How to Repent Like the Blessed Man

James: 4:7-12

Text: James 4:7-12 — 7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* 8 *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.* 9 *Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.* 10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.* 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?*

Review: *See back*

Take Away: *In order to become the Blessed Man, one must submit to God's curriculum of love. Such love, through the Spirit and the Word, will lead us to a liturgy of confession and repentance when our loves go astray in sin.*

I. How do we realign our desires towards God?: *(References: Psalm 16:11; Matthew 4:8-11; Philippians 2:12-13; Jeremiah 4:14; Matthew 18:8-7; Romans 13:14)*

II. How does loving God change the way we see ourselves?: *(References: Psalm 31:16; 1 Peter 6:8)*

III. How does right love change the way we treat our neighbor?: *(References: John 15:9-11; Matthew 21:28-32; Psalm 119:133; Psalm 1:2)*

Review of James 4:1-6

1. **What leads to warring?** Seeing that false teachers have led some of his sheep astray, James shows them their fruit in order to get at their hearts. The fruit of these deceived sheep is revealed by _____ and _____. Instead of loving their neighbor as themselves, they are hating them. James asks, where does this come from? Just as he has been doing throughout his epistle, he links what they believe to how they act. He wants them to look under the _____ of their hearts. Here, if they look, they will find wayward desires. They are loving and trusting in creation rather than Creator who is blessed forever amen. This leads to lust, murder, and coveting, within their hearts because they cannot get what they desire. Instead of asking God, and being patient they grasp for their passions for satisfaction. And when they ask, they ask amiss because they do so from a position of _____. God is too good to bless our desire for idolatry.
2. **What is the nature of idolatry?** After pointing out their evil fruit, James moves to confront their idolatry. He doesn't beat around the bush! He calls them _____ and _____ to make his argument from the history of Israel. Just as Israel was unfaithful to God in idolatry and were condemned by the prophets as adulterers, so too are those in James' congregation. Idolatry fundamentally puts us in _____ to God. We cannot love the world and love God at the same time. Setting our love on idols to ultimately satisfy our desires will end in death. The answer isn't to extinguish our desires but to redirect them to God Himself. Only He can provide us with the happiness we are looking for. Our hearts are _____ until they find rest in Him.
3. **How can we be satisfied?** After his diagnosis, James begins to prescribe the cure. How are we to fence in our wayward desires? In short, it is to humble ourselves and trust that God gives more _____. In order to beat idolatry. In order to beat secret sin. We must love God _____. We must agree with Him that our grasping for idols will kill us. We must confess our sins in humility. We must remember that God is jealous for His covenant relationship with His people. So jealous is He that for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the _____ despising the shame. We can see how much more he loves us when we look at His table. What idol has loved us like this?

Questions for the Table:

1. Are there areas in your life that might need an assessment as to their power to pull your loves astray? (Example: *social media, phone use, finances, comforts, praise of man, etc?*)
2. Our modern world hates shame. There is seemingly a promise that a happy life will not include shame. What does shame do Biblically, and why is it good for us?
3. How is judging/speaking evil of our brother outside of the Law of Liberty a red flag that our loves are disordered?