

Sermon Notes: The Source of True Happiness

James: 4:1-6

Text: James 4:1–6 (NKJV) — *1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

Review: See back

Take Away: *When our desires—our loves—go astray then so do we. Only rooting our love in Christ can solve this problem for we were made to be in worshipful table fellowship with Him.*

- I. What leads to Warring?:** (References: Peter Kreeft “Making Sense out of Suffering”; Acts 5:38–39; Romans 16:17–18; James 1:14–16; Philippians 4:11–13; Romans 8:28; Matthew 7:7–11; Psalm 107:9)

- II. What is the Nature of Idolatry?:** (References: Ezekiel 16:32; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6; 1 John 2:15–17; Romans 1:21–25)

- III. How can We be Satisfied?:** (References: 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 6:35)

Review of James 4:1-6

1. **A Definition of Wisdom:** Last time James compared and contrasted the wisdom from above and the false “wisdom” of the world. In order to catch his point, we needed to define true wisdom. God, by his good providence, wove wisdom into the fabric of _____. There is a *common grace* component to it. You don’t have to be a Christian to build a bridge, be a chemist, or know how to run a business. Even the pagan philosophers knew that if you *humbled yourself* you could gain much from following Lady Wisdom. Socrates said that the first step to wisdom is *admitting you don’t know* _____. Yet, God also made it so that you cannot follow Lady Wisdom for long without her bearing _____ to God Himself. At some point, in any area of learning, you will bump up against the truth of Triune God. Many a “wise” unbeliever is made to look a fool at this point. They refuse to acknowledge the truth that God is the source of all wisdom.
2. **The World’s “Wisdom”:** Next we followed out James’ accusation of the false wisdom of his opponents. *These are those within the Jerusalem church who say that faith and works are separate—water tight—compartments. James says that they are just like the Pharisees and the Sadducees who used wisdom to try and _____ the truth. They were using the facilities that God gave them to try and prove that Jesus was not the Christ. This is insane. It is unreasonable. And it is from the very pit of hell. They don’t care about the actual truth, just whatever they can do to forward their _____, _____, and _____ desires.*
3. **The Wisdom from Above:** Lastly we heard from James as he told us of the true wisdom, the wisdom that comes from above. As opposed to worldly wisdom which causes strife, division, and chaos, the wisdom of God is _____, _____, _____, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. When we live this way, we will be called fools by the world, but we will be living true godly wisdom. For God has made the wisdom from above—Jesus Christ—look foolish to the false wisdom of the world.

Questions for the Table:

1. What are some of the areas you are tempted to put your trust in created things rather than God? To where or to what do you go when you feel sad, afraid, or hurt?
2. Why should we not trust a definition of happiness dependent upon our feelings?
3. How does the Lord’s Table provide us with a window into the heavenly happiness that we desperately need?
4. Boys and girls, why is obeying your parents, while not making you feel happy in the moment sometimes, necessary for greater happiness when you are an adult?