



JAMES 4

Losing Sight of the Real Enemy

Name: _____ Date: _____

Big idea

Conflict with others often reveals a battle within our hearts. God calls us away from worldly desires and pride toward humility, grace, and obedience to His will.

Sermon Outline

I. The Battle Within — James 4:1–3

Selfish desires produce conflict; even prayer can become self-centered.

II. Friendship with the World — James 4:4

Divided loyalty damages our fellowship with God.

III. More Grace for the Humble — James 4:5–6

God desires our devotion and gives grace to the humble.

IV. The Way Back — James 4:7–10

Submit to God, resist the devil, draw near, repent, and humble yourself.

V. Words That Build or Destroy — James 4:11–12

Reject slander and judgmental speech; love your neighbor.

VI. Planning Under God's Will — James 4:13–17

Life is brief; plan humbly and do the good you know to do.

Key Scriptures

James 4:1, 4, 6–8, 10, 14–15, 17 • Psalm 133:1 • Ephesians 6:12 • Romans 12:2

Opening notes

I. The Battle Within | James 4:1-3

James traces fights and quarrels to desires that battle within us. Selfish motives can affect relationships and prayer.

1. What desires or expectations sometimes turn a disagreement into conflict?

2. How can we recognize when our prayers are focused more on our wants than on God's will?

II. Friendship with the World | James 4:4

James describes worldly allegiance as spiritual unfaithfulness. The issue is not enjoying God's blessings, but placing them above Him.

3. Where can the world's priorities quietly begin shaping our decisions?

III. More Grace for the Humble | James 4:5-6

God desires our devotion. He resists pride but gives greater grace to those who humble themselves.

4. What might practical humility and dependence on God look like this week?

IV. The Way Back | James 4:7-10

James calls believers to submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to God, pursue purity, take sin seriously, and humble themselves.

5. Why does submission to God come before resisting the devil?

6. What does “draw near to God” look like in your daily life?

7. Is there an attitude, habit, or sin you need to bring before the Lord?

V. Words That Build or Destroy | James 4:11-12

James returns to the tongue. Loving correction aims to restore; gossip, slander, and a critical spirit tear people down.

8. How can we distinguish loving correction from a judgmental attitude?

VI. Planning Under God’s Will | James 4:13–17

Our lives are like a vapor. We can plan wisely without assuming control of tomorrow. Knowing the good we ought to do also calls for action.

9. In what area are you making plans without intentionally seeking God’s will?

10. What good thing do you already know God wants you to do?

Personal Application

What is one specific step of obedience you will take this week?

Additional Sermon Notes
