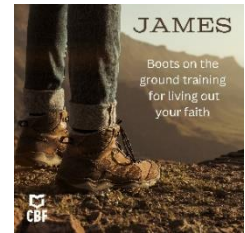


James 3:13-4:6 – Understanding “Under the Sun” Thinking

***“Under the Sun” thinking: It is a mindset that focuses on the here and now and my desires. It ignores God and His design for my life. I am drawn to what the sinful world around me is offering instead. (Ecclesiastes 1:14, Colossians 3:1-2, 1 John 2:16, Matthew 6:19-21)



1 Wisdom – 3:13-18

- a. Wisdom defined: the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment. Having knowledge and knowing how best to use it in any situation.
- b. Earthly Wisdom – Wisdom that originates with mankind. (vv.14-16)
 - Jealousy – envious rivalry, desirous of what one does not have and pursuing it by any means
 - Selfish Ambition - a desire to put oneself forward by any means necessary, self-seeking
 - Earthly – focused on this life only and not eternity
 - Unspiritual – a desire to fulfill a sinful appetite and passion
 - Demonic – literally of the Devil
- c. Wisdom from Above (v.13, 17)
 - Meekness – gentle, under control of oneself
 - Pure – clean, modest, absent of blemish
 - Peaceable – bringing peace, loving peace and not conflict
 - Gentle – mild in nature, equitable, fair
 - Open to reason – willing to listen, open to other’s ideas with Biblical discernment
 - Mercy – kindness towards the miserable and the afflicted
 - Good Fruits – excellent acts resulting in the good of others
 - Impartial – not partial or biased; fair; just
 - Sincere – without hypocrisy

2 Cause of conflict – 4:1-5

- a. The Cause: Our Selfish Focus – vv.1-3
 - We fight to obtain our sinful desires and never completely fulfill them. We ask God for our desires and do not receive them because we are not asking for His honor or His plan, but for ours.
 - Matthew 15:18,19
- b. Harsh examples of a believer with “under the sun” thinking – vv.4-5
 - “Adulterous people” – A believer living “under the sun” is explained as a form of adultery.
 - “Enemy” – How can we be on both sides of such a distinct battle between God and sin?
 - “Jealousy” - used to demonstrate God’s desire to have fellowship with His children.

Thoughts to Ponder

1. A relationship with God is not all about me. It’s all about Him and His desire for me to know Him more.
2. Is my mindset on me or on Him?
3. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 – Solomon’s conclusion after exploring everything under the sun (self-indulgence, human wisdom and knowledge, pleasures, etc.)