

James 4:11-17
“Overcoming Our Corruption”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 4:11-17) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Overcoming Our Corruption”

~ INTRO ~

NOW... AS WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY ...

- We've learned that practical Christian living...
 - At the *Crossroads of Culture*...
 - Is the core message of James.

BUT... REMEMBER...

- James was a half-brother to Jesus...
 - And he was antagonist & critical...
 - Toward the methods / message / & miracles of Jesus.
 - (John 7:3-5) NLT

HOWEVER...

- After James saw the resurrected Jesus (1 Cor. 15:7) NKJV...
 - He became a radical defender & supporter of the faith!

JAMES...

- Writes a NO non-sense BOOK...
 - About Christian living in a corrupt culture...
 - And refers many times to the Sermon on The Mount.

HERE'S WHAT HE SAYS:

- Read (vv.11-17) NLT

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE TO UNDERSTAND:

- a) **Critical conversations don't produce obedience** (vv.11-12)

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b) Self-confident plans are NOT the way of faith (vv.13-17)

HERE’S TWO WAYS WE CAN THINK ABOUT THIS:

IDEA #1 – MY CONVERSATIONS: (vv.11-12)

(Proverbs 18:21)...

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”

IN OTHER WORDS... WE HAVE THE ABILITY...

- To build people up OR pull them down...
 - With the words that we use & the way we talk.

JESUS SAID...

“... The Father... has commanded me what to say AND how to say it.”

(John 12:49) NLT

THIS IS A TRUTH FOR ALL CHRISTIANS!

- We need growth & development in *Emotional Intelligence*...
 - By not “*speaking evil against each other*”

Literally: Fault-finding that destroy others!

AGAIN... JESUS SAID:

“Why do you look at the speck in your brothers eye,
but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”

(Matt. 7:3) NKJV

WHY ARE YOU...

- Looking at a **smaller fault** in someone else’s life...
 - When your issues are much greater!?!

A BALANCED APPROACH:

i. (Eph. 4:29-31) NLT

- We grieve the Holy Spirit when our words & ways...
 - Become abusive to others.

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ON THE OTHER HAND...

ii. (1 Thess. 5:19-22) NLT

- We **Quench** the Holy Spirit OR *stifle* God’s influence...
 - By rejecting the word of God over our lives.

MAYBE A FRIEND...

- Gives you a tough word... (In gentleness & respect)
 - But you trip out & want to argue.

LISTEN... THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH...

- Should be expressed in:

a) By building others up

AND...

b) By our confidence in God’s word

CONSIDER JOB FOR A MOMENT.

- He was a man going thru a season of *sifting*...

His faith was *tested* to the verge of collapse = (Luke 22:31) NKJV

- AND God allowed **three areas of his life** to be touched:

- 1) **His finances** – business collapsed
- 2) **His family** – kids killed
- 3) **His health** – became a daily struggle

YET...

- Job continued to use the language of faith during this time of sifting...
 - And his confidence in God’s word was unshakeable!!!
 - **(Job 1:21) NKJV** = Eternal perspective
 - **(Job 13:15) NKJV** = Submissive to God’s will
 - **(Job 23:12) NKJV** = Found strength in the word

SO... HERE’S THE LESSON FOR LIVING:

WHEN WE TALK TO...

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- OR about... other Christians...
 - We need to **think** about our words first!

T – True

H – Helpful

I – Important

N – Necessary (saving from hardship of bad decision)

K – Kind

IDEA #2 – MY PLANS: (vv.13-17)

(Ruth 1:1)

- Elimelech & Naomi...
 - Are an example of people running...
 - When circumstances got tough!

THEY LEFT BETHLEHEM (house of bread)...

- And moved to MOAB (toilet bowl).

RATHER THAN LIVING BY FAITH...

- They made plans that “*seemed right*” (Prov. 16:25) NLT
 - But fell outside of God’s leading.
- In the long run it cost them dearly...
 - Suffering / death in marriage / & death of kids.

(Heb. 11:8-9) NLT

- A life of faith unfolds step-by-step & continues in faith!
 - It’s submitted to biblical truth... (Ps. 119:105) NLT
 - And the counsel of others... (Prov. 11:14) NKJV

POINT BEING:

- Self-confidence... wrestles the reigns of leadership...
 - Out of the hands of God...
 - And demands my-way right-now!!!
 - (Num. 11:4-15)

SATISFY MY PHYSICAL CRAVINGS...

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- To the neglect of spiritual principals.
 - (Matt 4:2-4) NKJV
 - (Titus 2:4-5) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE MINISTRY TEAM AROUND HERE...

- Wants to encourage you to move forward in faith...
 - By engaging the Gospel of Christ...
 - In ALL areas of your life.

IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN DISOBEDIENCE TODAY...

- Can I offer the grace of God to you?
 - Would you slip your hand up so we can pray for you.

COVID has been nasty to us...

- Over the last four-months in particular.
 - And I want to encourage you to faithfulness again!

~ LET'S PRAY ~