

Part 10 – Lord Willing?

A Study of James 4:11-17

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

13 Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what *shall* be on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

So, the last couple weeks we have been hopefully learning possibly one of life's greatest lessons in

humbling ourselves as we submit to God and draw close to Him so that we can get through whatever situation or temptation comes into our lives. With a lesson learned we now have opportunity to live that lesson out as we navigate daily life, in faith!

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

- Just after being given a great lesson for life (Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up), James shows what comes next.
 - If we are humbled in God's sight
 - God's recognition becomes more important than
 - Man's recognition
 - Man's reconciliation
 - Man's restitution
 - Man's repentance
 - Man's remorse
 - So then with my humility I...
 - I Shouldn't speak evil of another brother
 - This is a product of an un-satisfied individual

- This is when we slander, bear false witness, or speak anything that is not edifying
 - **Leviticus 19:16** Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people:
- I Shouldn't judge another brother's conversation
 - **Matthew 7:1** Judge not, that ye be not judged.
 - 2** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
- I Shouldn't show my disregard for God's Law
 - This happens when I speak of the law and judge by the law without personal perfection
 - It's easier to judge the law than to keep it
 - God and God only has done both...

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

- We must remember what our judgment brings us...

- **Romans 2:1** *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

2 *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

- Now it seems as if James just changes gears, as we enter into an entirely different subject matter...

13 Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

- It may seem like we are entering a new subject, but think about how we got here...
 - First we were shown how to recognize temptations presence, and understand it's purpose
 - Second, we were shown in order to do both we need wisdom which only comes from God
 - Third, after receiving wisdom we were able to endure and escape temptations presence, and fulfill its purpose by being pointed to the Lord
 - Fourth, we were made to realize that what comes out of my mouth is often a product of our prideful lust

- So we see again we must turn to wisdom that only comes from God
- Fifth, we see that we have an internal struggle to do things how we want or to walk in the Wisdom God provides
 - So we find that submitting to God is the first step to being closer to Him
- Sixth, being in God's presence produces humility
- Seventh, with a humble heart, and a tamed tongue, I will speak evil of no man
- **And now God must show us another area of pride...our plans**

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

- Just when you think, well, I'm doing pretty well! God's doing a great work in me! I'll go to Disneyland!
- We can make plans all we want but none of us have the ability to really know what tomorrow holds

- Our lives are so very short
- Most times we make so many plans that we plan God right out of our lives
- Sure we go to church, but our days get filled with too many things to allow us to really spend time with our Savior.
- We make all these plans without consulting our Lord and Master
 - Which really shows who our master is...or isn't
- Then we brag about all we accomplish or brag about all we are going to do, whereas we forget...
 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart (that's faith)
 - Lean not unto thine own understanding (that's wisdom)
 - In ALL thy ways acknowledge Him (that's humility)
 - And He shall direct thy path (that's peace)
- James just told us when we brag on our plans or what our plans have produced, it is evil...harsh right?
 - But wait, there's more...

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

- Now the preacher has went and done it! Sin's definition has never been more clear or convicting!
- If I know what to do, and don't, God (the One Who defines sin) calls that sin!
 - If I know I'm supposed to be at church, and I'm not...sin
 - If I know someone that needs Jesus and don't tell them...sin
 - If I know a brother is in need, and I don't give...sin
 - If I know to give an offering and I don't...sin
 - If I know a brother needs to be encouraged and I don't...sin
 - If I know to pray for someone and I don't...sin
 - If I know my actions will be a blessing and a help, but I don't...sin
 - If I know that God wants one thing in my life but I plan for something else...sin
- Whether God convicts or conveys His will for my life, anything less is rebellion
 - **1Samuel 15:23** *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

So now let's review where James the Preacher has brought us to at this point.

- **Chapter 1** – We learned to discern when we are in temptation and how to endure and escape temptation, thus fulfilling its purpose.
- **Chapter 2** – We learned that God's Mercy trumps His judgment, and it's not about just what we know, but how we show what we know, because dead faith doesn't work.
- **Chapter 3** – We learned that the untamable tongue is only tamed by the indwelling Holy Spirit so that we might dwell in peace with others.
- **Chapter 4** – In verses 1-10 we learned one of life's greatest lessons in us simply humbling ourselves is the only way to be near Him.
 - And today that my way is not the right way, it is only the way of pride. **My life is to be about His will.**
- So, how do we stack up today as we see if our life is being lived in faith, or not?
 - Is the first thing out of our mouth about a brother or sister in Christ something that will edify and encourage
 - or do we usually demean and discourage?
 - How about your plans for life?
 - Is the Lord considered just a confidant or is He your Commander as well?
 - In other words do you tell God what your plans are or do you let Him plan your life?

