



HONING OUR HUMILITY

JAMES 4:1-12

James Chapter 4

LETTER
OUTLINE

FAITH & TEMPTATIONS 1:1-27

FAITH AT WORK 2:1-5:6

FAITH'S REWARDS 5:7-20

CHAPTER
OUTLINE

WHAT'S AT THE ROOT? 4:1-3

WHAT AM I REALLY AFTER? 4:4-6

WHO AM I REALLY SERVING? 4:7-10

WHO AM I TO SAY? 4:11-12

Where we're going with it:

In this first half of James 4 much of what he has to say seems to connect back to **humility (to rightly see one's self in its true state, nothing less or more)**. Are we rightly seeing who we are, our motives and who we're seeking to serve? James seems to be asking his audience to **hone their humility**. He honestly challenges them to do some searching, while also encouraging a change of direction. To chase after a life & Lifegiver who'll meet them in the midst of it.

Things to chew on...

1. What was the last fight or disagreement you had with someone? Looking back, was it really about what you thought it was?
2. In v. 3 James suggests that they asked with the wrong motives, think about something you prayed for in the last week, what was your motive?
3. Do you think James is suggesting we shouldn't be friends with people in the world in v. 4?
4. v. 6 starts with, "But..." How does that strike you, what does it say to you?
5. James gets uber practical in vv. 7-10. Some have called them, James's 10 Commandments. Can you find them? Which one seems the strangest?
6. What about v. 8 is surprising or encouraging to you? Why? How might some folks misunderstand it?
7. How might a humble group of people pave the way for others to more easily embrace humility?

(Some ideas for application and connecting scriptures on the back.)

Possible applications...

HONING HUMILITY.

JAMES 4:1-12

Humble Prayer: *In biblical times they wore rough sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on themselves to come humbly before God. What could you do to show God (and remind yourself of) your humility? Kneel? Wear a dirty shirt? Put soil on your face? The specifics don't matter as much as your attitude. Take a good long time to listen to God. Ask about the things He cares about. Ask what He wants for you. Confess your sins and receive His forgiveness. Ask again for wisdom.*

Memorization: *Learn James 4:7-8.*

Peacemaking: *Are there "fights and quarrels" in your life? If you're not seeing eye to eye with someone, do what you can to set that relationship right.*

Service: *Find a humble way to serve your church, community or school. Clean up, fix up, help those who routinely get neglected. This is not about you getting props for a good deed, but about showing the love of God to others. If you can do it in secret, even better.*

Connecting Scriptures...

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
(Matthew 5:9)

4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your
heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:

6 He will make your righteous reward
shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.
(Psalm 37)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all
faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors
worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt,
and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems
undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this
day whom you will serve, whether the gods your
ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods
of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as
for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
(Joshua 24:14-15)

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil
prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone
to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith,
because you know that the family of believers
throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of
sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9)