

SUMMER SERMON SERIES 2022

# JAMES

FAITH ⊕ ACTION

**“Can’t we all just get along?” 4:1-10**

GRACE NORWALK

James is of the mindset that  
if you profess to be a believer,  
•you must possess what you profess

# The SOURCE - The PRACTICE - The OUTCOME

## V.17-18

- Wisdom from Heaven
- Selfless
- Results
- <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

## V.14-16

- Wisdom earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
- Selfish ambition
- Results
- <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 4:1-10

***1 What causes wars and fights among you?***

*Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

*2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.*

**As a result of our selfishness,  
James tells us three conflicts it brings to our lives**

- I. **Our SELFISHNESS results in conflicts with other people  
V.1-2b.**

- **The battles between us  
come from the battle within us**

- **“The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart”**

# As a result of our selfishness, James tells us three conflicts it brings to our lives

- I. Our **SELFISHNESS** results in conflicts with *other people*  
V.1-2b.
- The cause of conflicts is
  - <sup>1b</sup> “Our desires that battle within us”
  - Desires = GK *Hedon* - English- **Hedonism**

- **Egotistical hedonism** requires a person to consider only his or her own pleasure (Opinion) in making choices. It doesn't matter who I hurt, it doesn't matter if it is wrong as long as it feels good to them

- **Philippians 2:3-4 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,* <sup>4</sup> *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

NLT

<sup>3</sup> *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.* <sup>4</sup> *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

- James 4:2a

2a **You desire but do not have, so you kill.**

- Matt. 5

• <sup>21</sup> “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘**You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.**’<sup>22</sup> **But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!** If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

- 2b **You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. ....**

# As a result of our selfishness, James tells us three conflicts it brings to our lives

- II. Our **SELFISHNESS** results in unanswered prayer V.2b-3

*<sup>2c</sup> You do not have because you do not ask God.*

*<sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures*

- Does your prayer reveal a hedonistic heart?

# As a result of our selfishness, James tells us three conflicts it brings to our lives

- III. Our **SELFISHNESS** results in the conflict with our relationship with God V.4-5

- *<sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?*

# James Five Medications to cure the problem

- 1. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God.
- 2. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- 3. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

# James Five Medications to cure the problem

- 4. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.
  - Matt. 5:4 *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- 5. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

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