



LESSON 11 - JAMES 4:4-10 (TEACHER)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read James 4:4-10. Summarize this section with one sentence. How does it relate to the previous paragraph?
3. What common Old Testament metaphor does James use in verse 4 to rebuke his readers? Look up Hosea 9:1; Jeremiah 3; Isaiah 54:5-8. Why did the Old Testament Prophets refer to Israel in this way? What had they done? What does God call them to do?
4. Similarly, how does the Bride of Christ (the true, universal Church today) engage in friendship with the world, thereby committing spiritual adultery? See Romans 12:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:11; Galatians 1:6-10; 1 John 2:15-16; and Revelation 2:1-5 to help frame your answer.
5. Sadly when a Christian desires to be friends with the world, who will she inevitably be hostile toward?

6. This warning that James gives in 4 is very relevant today. When we have friendship with the world, we are like an unfaithful wedded wife who leaves her husband and seeks out other idols to satisfy her heart. Place a check mark next to some typical idols you serve in your own life that assist you in turning your back on God. You may be surprised at the "friends" you hold dear.

I must

Have respect

Have recognition

Have happiness

Have a life that is free from pain and difficulty

Have my own way and I'm not getting it

Have comfort

Have success/succeed

Be treated fairly

Have a spouse who is affectionate

Have children who are obedient

Have a clean house

Have others who conform to my schedule

Fill in your own "must have": _____

7. According to verse 10, how does God feel towards us when we are an unfaithful bride and why (Exodus 20:5)?

8. While the world competes for our love for God and we find ourselves struggling with self-centeredness resulting in a divided loyalty (adultery), what does God continually give when we return to Him in humility (James 4:6, 10; Proverbs 3:34; Luke 15:11-32)?

9. Does God's abundant grace toward us mean that we can think lightly of our sin? How does James answer that question in verses 7-12?

In light of God's abundant grace, I must:

Submit to _____ (v. 7)

Resist the _____ (v.7) Draw near to _____ (v. 8)

Cleanse my _____ and purify my _____ (v. 8)

Be _____ and _____ and _____ (v. 8)

Let my _____ be turned into _____

and my _____ to _____ (v. 9)

Humble _____ before the _____ of

the _____ (v. 10)

Do not _____ evil against one _____ (v. 11)

10. Worldliness leaves everyone feeling dirty or polluted. What does James give us as the external and internal solution for repentance according to the last part of verse 8?

External: _____ your _____

Internal: _____ your _____

11. Look up the definition of each word below from verse 9. What does it mean to have genuine sorrow over the sins you listed? Then read Psalm 51. How does David's repentance reflect the three words below?

Miserable (*talaiporesate*):

Mourn (*penthesate*):

Weep (*klaio*):

12. How are Psalm 32:1-9 and 1 John 1:9 a comfort to those who are in Christ?

OPTIONAL:

In verse 10, James says that the Lord will exalt believers if they humble themselves before Him. Now read Luke 24:14; 22-30 and John 13:1-17. What lesson does Jesus teach his disciples about humility and exaltation, and how can this be a comfort to you? (See also Romans 8:30 and 2 Corinthians 4:14-18.)

APPLICATION:

When we find that we are entrapped by worldliness, there is an external as well as an internal cleansing that needs to take place in the believer's life. On the one hand, we purposely withdraw from things that make us dirty ("cleanse our hands"). But we must also mortify the idols that reside in our hearts ("purify our hearts").

How does this lesson assist you in training your children to acknowledge his or her *sin* rather than focusing on *behavior modification*?

Behavior modification focuses only on the child doing what you are asking him or her to do, looking for an outward response. For example, your 5 year old son takes a truck from his 3 year old brother. Your response is, "Give it back and say you're sorry."

How would you approach your instruction in this situation after studying these verses?