

“Five Common Battles”
James 4
Jerry Grey, WBC (11-18; 12-23)

Introduction: I have been a Christian for about 40 years now and one thing I have discovered is that the battles we all face each day are quite common. Some of us talk openly about them, and some of us hide our struggles so others will not know how weak we are.

~Some people actually look so Christian and holy you would never think they fought any battles at all. That’s why we are so shocked when we find out they have a serious problem spiritually, morally, or ethically. Marriages fail and habits persist. There is no temptation that you have experienced that is not common to man.

~What I am saying is that this message is for all of us today. James mentions a few things that I am inclined to think we all battle with from time to time, if not every day.

When you were not a Christian, these battles were not there, so thank God for the battle. **The battles prove you are a Christian.**

The battles are the reason that many people have chosen to stay home today. Too much conviction. Many people will never come to Woodlake because of the way I preach. Why would anyone neglect the Word that helps us in these afflictions?

All of you here today are here because I do tell you the truth, and as a matter of fact, if I don’t, you will leave. You will see this in James’ words. He pulls no punches. It’s full force.

Listen... we want to be different. We want to take these battles on and win, right?

1 Cor 10:13

13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what

you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

NIV

This is an oft misquoted passage, too. The context is **temptation** not **suffering**. The context was Israel's disobedience. My point here is that God has provided a way for us to win the battle. You are not some evil or strange person just because you are being tempted. We all face these battles. These are common among believers and even nonbelievers. However, we are to work at winning the battle as Christians. (Selfishness, Worldliness, Rebellion, Judging, Boasting).

I. Battle Number 1: Selfishness- Verse 1-3

Where do I start? The truth of this matter is that all sin starts right here. Selfishness is the root of all sin. We come into this world thinking that everybody here is here to meet our needs.

I guess it has always been this way. I have read scholar's works from the 1700 and they talk about the church of their day as being selfish. The great preachers of old constantly worked at getting their people motivated to serve. One preacher said that, ***"the obituaries we write for ourselves are never read."*** We are 200 plus years removed from Calvin and Spurgeon and Joseph Parker and A. W. Tozer, and we still have the same problems in churches today.

Many individuals and churches are like the dead sea. All inflow with no outflow, and the church or individual loses the right to exist. They die spiritually.

Jesus had lots to say about selfishness: **Count the personal pronouns in this passage or references the farmer has about himself.**

Luke 12:16-24

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 **He** thought to **himself**, 'What shall **I** do? **I** have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then **he** said, 'This is what **I'll** do. **I** will tear down **my** barns and build bigger ones, and there **I** will store all **my** grain and **my** goods. 19 And **I'll** say to **myself**, "**You** have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. **23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.**

NIV

(Who do you know that would agree with Jesus about verse 23?)

Verse 1: The big question. What is it that causes fights. What a great question? People for ages have asked this question. The answer is right here in the bible.

James 4:1-3

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

NIV

- The first world that James deals with is the word **polemos**. We get our word polemic from this word. It means to **fight**, war or battle. This can be a series of battles or a single fight.
- The second world is **mache**. This word refers to strife or striving. To battle or dispute, quarrel. Cleon Rogers says that the first word pictures the chronic state or campaign of war while the second word pictures separate conflicts or battles of the war.
- **To be polemic is to aggressively attack or refute the opinions or principles of others.**
- The strife and contention and wars come from within us. We are the problem. The second word for battle here refers to serving in the military. A soldier or even at times the army of the Lord.
- Where does this war like strife come from? James says it a lust for one's own pleasure and desire that lives in our members... **here used as the abode of passions.**
- The Greek word is **hedon**. It's the first part of the word **hedonism**. The self-seeking pleasure worshippers.
- **Wherever you find selfishness out of control you will find war.**
- James uses a war term, Strateuomai, which means soldier or war. This is to have conflict with carnal inclinations. James says we are at war with our own cravings and carnality within us. Fights erupt in our minds over selfish sensuality. Wow! That's a statement of truth if I ever heard one.

Verse 2: The first statement is such a great word. My Mama had good theology. She said it this way, **"You aren't too old for your wants not to hurt you."** You want, but you don't get it. WOW! Can this be true? That we can actually want stuff and not get it? HELLLLLLOOOOO. Brother Jerry, do you mean to tell me that we are not supposed to get everything we ask for? Are we not to get everything we want?

- You know that some people have never been told no. They don't know how to act when they don't get their way. What comes from that? A fight. Or at least a sharp comment or two. We don't like to be told no. I got some news for ya.... God has a right to put people in your path that will tell you no. He also has the right to tell you no. It's called growing up. It's called patience. It's called... ***“the world doesn't revolve around you.”*** It's called... ***“try sacrificing for others for a change.”*** It's called... ***“you are not always right about everything.”*** We might need to call the paramedics now cause some folks may be crushed by that truth.

Illustration: Five things I wish I'd known before I got married. Financial questionnaire. Material I use in premarital counseling.

Five things I wish I knew before I got married:

1. Marriage is not all about you. It's not about your happiness and self-fulfillment. It's about family, serving God, and serving each other.
2. You are about to learn a painful lesson- you are both very selfish people. You will probably not see this during the hazy days of courtship, but it is true. Many couples get shocked into reality a few years into marriage.
3. The person you love the most is also the person who can hurt you the deepest. That's the risk and pain of marriage. And the beauty of marriage is working through your hurt and pain and resolving your conflicts and solving your problems.
4. You can't make it work on your own. It's obvious that marriage is difficult, just look at how many couples today end in divorce. This is why it's so critical to center our lives and our marriages on the God who created marriage to

make your marriage last for a lifetime. You need to rely on God for the power, love, strength, wisdom, and endurance that you need.

5. Never stop enjoying each other and always remember that marriage is an incredible gift to be enjoyed Ecclesiastes 9: 9 says, “enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life, which he has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toils in which you have labored under the sun. Enjoy the little things of life with your spouse: meals together, movies, laughing, sharing, spiritual growth, game nights, reading together, family and a million other things. Keep it simple.

Financial Questionnaire: Selfishness Test!

These things are extra, Desirable, Useful, or Necessary.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| • Life Insurance | E-D-U-N |
| • Expensive TV | E-D-U-N |
| • New Furniture | E-D-U-N |
| • Electronics | E-D-U-N |
| • Having a car | E-D-U-N |
| • Having two cars | E-D-U-N |
| • Owning a boat | E-D-U-N |
| • Planning a Family budget | E-D-U-N |
| • Owning a house within five years. | E-D-U-N |
| • A house you can't afford | E-D-U-N |
| • Tithing | E-D-U-N |
| • A dishwasher | E-D-U-N |
| • Dry cleaning | E-D-U-N |
| • An RV | E-D-U-N |
| • Pets | E-D-U-N |
| • A complete set of china | E-D-U-N |
| • Donations to charity | E-D-U-N |
| • Wife working outside the home | E-D-U-N |

- Vacation once a year E-D-U-N
 - Continual formal education E-D-U-N
 - Long term savings plan E-D-U-N
 - Medical insurance E-D-U-N
 - Credit cards E-D-U-N
 - A motorcycle E-D-U-N
 - Manicure and pedicure E-D-U-N
 - Sports equipment E-D-U-N
 - Buying on credit E-D-U-N
 - Eating out E-D-U-N
-
- Look at these words will you? You lust and kill. The word for lust is **thumos**. It refers to breathing hard. You get so mad at not getting what you want it makes you breath hard. It's emotions out of control. I don't think we are in the state here to kill, but it does happen every day. People will kill you today over fifty cents. Impatience and intolerance cause people to shoot others they disagree with.
 - Don't think the word **kill** exempts us from this truth cause Jesus said lust is adultery and anger is murder.
 - **Zeloo** is our word for covet here. A person's desire for what others have. It is jealousy, or a literal "*warmth of feeling*" over what others have. Also a zeal over what you don't want others to have.
 - **When these types of people don't get their way, they war. They cause problems. Strife and battles. They quarrel and fight, James says. Selfishness is a cruel master.**

Illustration: We are watching this take place in politics right now. When people don't get their way they attack, slander, war, and fight. Many snowflakes and millennials and generations Xers- not all of them mind you, but many, just can't take it when they don't get their way.

- Now James tells us what the problem is. You want and don't get because you are selfish, and you don't even ask God about it. You don't get what you want because you didn't bring God into the equation. Remember that He is Savior and Lord. The **"Lord"** part means He gets a-say-so in your life. Folks simply don't pray properly about what God wants for their life. Just do what you want and you will get what you get.
- **Greek: Obtain- επιτυχανω:** The infinitive form means, "to obtain." This means to chance upon. Have you ever noticed that when you are being selfish, warring, striving, and fighting that things just don't go your way. God blocks your blessings. You don't get what you want.

Verse 3:

- Then James hit right at the heart of the matter. **We have poor motives.** We ask **kakos-** or amiss. Diseased, sore, sick, or grievously... miserably. Our motives are diseased.
- So that we can spend... **dapanao-** upon our own lust or pleasures. It's a spending and wasteful exercise upon one's own sensual delights. To **consume** for self.
- Bottomline is this... this is the bottom of the barrel when it comes to selfishness. This is the worst kind of selfishness.

Application:

- Abraham and lot parted ways. Who was selfish? What Happened?
- The church in Corinth- suing each other. Competing with each other in public meetings. Taking sides with the Apostles. They did not give up their rights.
- The Galatians were biting and devouring each other.
- Paul told the Ephesians to cultivate spiritual unity.

- The Philippian church had two ladies in a battle.
- Class wars, rich and poor.
- Gender wars.
- Racial wars.
- Employment wars.
- Political wars.
- Church wars.
- James mentions personal wars.

If there were ever a time in history that we loved to fight, it's now. We are a selfish people. It's my way or highway. What has happened to us? Sitcoms tell us to be rude and obnoxious and short with anyone that gets in our way. A world full of haters and mean-spirited people are out there that have no concern for others and must have their way at all cost. Is that what Jesus has taught us? No, it's not. ***We are servants first. We are the givers not the takers. Jesus said among us it shall not be named.***

You want to be a stand out? Start giving and serving. I promise, you will stand out.

Even the disciples had a case of selfish fights:

Matt 20:20-28

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

21 "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places

belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **26 Not so with you.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NIV

II. Battle Number 2: Worldliness- Verses 4-6

Rom 12:2

2 And be not **conformed to this world:** but be ye **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

KJV

~People that **conform** don't care what God's will is.

Quotes: A. W. Tozer- "A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it is possible to "accept" Christ without forsaking the world."

~ Make Christ Savior today and Lord tomorrow. That's not biblical.

"For centuries the church stood solidly against every form of worldly entertainment, recognizing it for what it was- a device for wasting time, a refuge from the disturbing voice of conscience, a scheme to divert attention from moral accountability. But of late, she appears to have decided that if she cannot conquer the great god entertainment she may as well

join forces with him and make what use she can of his power.”
Tozer

Let's be honest with ourselves; we have been **conformed** and know little of being **transformed** by the renewing of the mind. We are fighting the battle of the worldly Christian.

Verse 4: This verse is quite offensive if you believe it's the bible. Notice how James addresses the people. James says that to be a **friend of the world** is to be an **adulterer**, a **God hater**, and an **enemy of God**.

- **Adulterer- A Vocative in the Greek.** A formal address. **Moichos**- an apostate. The OT use of this word was to pronounce judgment on those who practiced idolatry. Here it is used by James to describe the unfaithfulness and adultery of his audience with the world. **Eido**- don't you know, or perceive, that friendship with the world is hate towards God.
- The NIV uses adulteress people. The text actually uses both adulteress and adulterer.
- The point is that there is unfaithfulness. If you are not faithful to God you are an adulterer to something else. Can you say to God that you are faithful?
- Jesus brought this out with the Pharisees when He spoke these words, **“You have heard it was said, but I say unto you.”** You see, Jesus cut through the flowers and ribbons and got to the heart of the matter. Do we look holy, or are we really worldly? **Many people are offended by being called a sinner.** James comes right out and calls us adulterers.
- If you have offended in one point of the law, you have offended in all points (James 2:10).
- The Pharisees looked holy, talked holy, and presented themselves as holy, but they were rotten to the core.

Rev 21:7-8

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

KJV

Do you know why you are not considered as a part of this list? Because the precious Son of God was beaten and battered as He took your punishment and your place on the cross so that you could be called the righteousness of God in Him. We all belong in this list. But I'm on another list in the Lamb's book of life that keeps me safe for all eternity.

- The second important word is friend- **Philia or friendship**. Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two gods. This word refers to those who are friendly with the world. And by the way guess what that word world is? You got it- cosmos. How many different ways can we translate the word cosmos? Two! The world, e.g., the universe, or the evil philosophy of the world.
- They are **comfortable** there. If you are comfy in your sin you are lost. Worldly things should make you uncomfortable.
- ***God will make you hate the world and the world will make you hate God.***
- **Kosmos**: orderly arrangement, i.e. decoration; by implication, the world (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literally or figuratively [morally]): KJV - adorning, world.
- **The world's philosophy or dogma. It's beliefs and system of rules and behavior. World view.**

- Worldly people are enemies of God. Wow!!! Can you stand the thought of being an enemy of God? I can't bear that thought.

There are two words in the last part of this verse that demand our attention.

- The NIV says “**chooses** and **becomes.**” The KJV says “**will be** and **is.**”
- **Boulomai- will be.** The NIV says chooses. It is, in other words, a desire. The root of this word is **thelo**, which means **to be disposed to, or to list, or to love and have.** This is a passive but is deponent. Translated as an active verb. A subjunctive. Potential action. The person who desires by their own will, to be a friend of the world, is responsible. ***You are disposed to love and accept the world. You list or lean into the ways of the world. Rogers says that it connotes preference.***
- **What happens when you list? Kathistemi** happens. **Kathistemi** means to “**become**” as the NIV says. KJV says “**is.**” It means appoint, designate, or constitute. To lay down permanently. To ordain, set, or appoint. To render.
- When you lean or list towards the friendship of the world it is ordained that you will become a part of it. This battle rages continually. The world creeps up on us. The world works its way into our homes, churches, and lives.
- The world is a slippery oil that finds its way through the smallest crack. The world is a beam of moon light shining through a pin hole in the tin roof of the barn on a moon lit night. It finds its way in and it has to be snuffed out. John

identifies these three as our great enemies... the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

KJV

Verse 5: Do you want to know if you're saved? No really? Do you want to know if you are saved? The text asks this question. Let me say it like this... do you think that the scriptures say for no reason, or vainly, that God put His Holy Spirit in you, which has caused you to "live" so that you feel the jealousy of the Holy Spirit in your heart, as you court the world? God tells us that we are alive through the scriptures. They tell us what it is that is within us when we come to Him. He is a jealous God. The Holy Spirit tells you that. Do you think that is without reason? It is confirmed in us that God envies against our adultery with the world. **While we sin... the courting jealous Spirit of God calls us away from the world.**

Scholars have had a hard time with this verse. To what spirit is James referring. Is this a teaching about the Holy Spirit? About what particular scripture is James talking? There is not record of it in the OT? Is James talking about the human spirit at birth we were given or the Holy Spirit at conversion. **I have taught you to yield to the application when the context does not yield a certain interpretation.** If James is referring to the human spirit of life then he means to teach us that the fleshly life within us will strongly envy all the things of the world. If James is

referring to the Holy Spirit then he is referring to the jealousy of the Holy Spirit within us that calls us to obedience.

It is my belief that James is telling us that God's Spirit in us is jealous and so is the natural spirit of life. There is a battle going on within us. James speaks as we all do when we say, "The scripture says..." I refer to the entire word of God on occasion without mentioning a passage singularly. I refer to the thoughts and intent of the message. Jealousy can be used in a positive sense and a negative.

Ex 20:4-5

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a **jealous** God,
NIV

- If this battle is not in you, or you do not feel the raging call of a jealous Spirit in your soul, you are not His child. That's why I am not going to spend a lot of time calling out the sins of the world. If you are sinning with the world, you know where you're at. The Holy Spirit already told you. The Spirit "earnestly," "enviously" speaks to us. And as scholars struggle with this passage and wonder if it is the human spirit drawing you that is depraved, then so be it, but the battle will still be there. A lost man is still depraved.

Verse 6: There are two people in verse 6. The **proud** and the **humble**.

- ~ The humble get **grace**.
- ~ The proud get **resisted**.

There are two results in verse 6 as well. First, those who admit by humility, that they are not saved, or that they are out of God's will

and they get grace. Those who get rejected through pride. The Christian that walks at a guilty distance. Will you please come from the world and submit to Christ? Please.

Prov 3:27

34 He mocks proud mockers
but gives grace to the humble.

NIV

Millions will go to hell after hearing the message preached and apathetically or pridefully make no decision to humble themselves before Jesus. This takes us to number three.

III. Battle Number 3: Rebellion/Submission- Verses 7-10

The case of Saul is a sad one. He was told by Samuel, and the Lord, to carry out his orders against the Amalekites. Saul rebelled and thought his sacrifices and good deeds were better than obedience. Here is what Samuel told him.

1 Sam 15:22-23

22 But Samuel replied:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

23 **For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.**

Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord,
he has rejected you as king."

NIV

We come to a modern-day nasty word. Two words to be exact. **Humility** and **submission!** These words are as foreign to the

world as anything we can imagine. To the world, they are passé and simply outdated, archaic even. If you believe they are virtues, you are foolish, weak, and even being abused by others.

Biblically, however we see these words as **virtuous and spiritual**. We are never more like The Christ than when we are **humble** and **obedient**. The world makes much of the biblical mandate for wives and submission to their husbands. Yet, if you will look at the scriptures closely you will find that the husband has twice as many people to submit to than the wife. He carries a greater responsibility for obedience to God than his wife. He is the responsible *Priest* in his home. He is the submissive leader. The husband is the example of submission.

We are all to submit to our pastor's, public officials, officers, military, bosses, and judges, etc.

What shall we learn about *Rebellion* and *Submission* from James? God gives greater grace, v. 6.

Verse 7: First we learn that we can only do one thing at a time. If you are submitting to Christ you cannot submit to the Devil. You can resist the Devil and Submit to Christ and vice versa. But not both at the same time.

- **Submit- hupotasso- hupo** is under and **tasso** is to set or ordain. To organize under, or place under, in its proper place. **When I am humble and submitting, I find myself in the proper place under Christ. I am organized in my ordained and rightful place.**
- You can't submit anybody else or for anybody else. Only you can submit for you, and to God.
- **Resist- Anthistemi-** to resist or withstand. To oppose or stand against. This smacks of a fight or a resistance. This is

a common battle. Pastor, how do I stand against the Devil's schemes? You resist. Fight back with submission to God.

- If you fight back, The Devil has to flee. **Pheugo- flee, vanish, run away. Jesus put him down the road. Jesus put the word of God on him.**

Matt 4:11

11 Then the devil **leaveth him**, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

KJV

- By the way, the word here for the Devil is **diabolos. The slanderer, the accuser, or the Devil.** He's a liar. He never tells you the truth. Even when he quotes the Word he takes it out of context and lies.

So Pastor How can I beat the Devil? How do I resist?

- **Scripture-** Do not talk to the Devil just quote the word. Do not get into a conversation with him. Remember he is intelligent far beyond us. As a matter of fact, we deal with imps and demons, not the son of evil himself.
- **Submit to God-** A submitted soul is a safe soul.
- **The Holy Spirit-** Always available and "in" you.
- **Prayer-** Hard to sin when you are talking to God.
- **Be in control of these three things- Appetites** (Lusts), **Pride** (Fame, Recognition), **Materialism** (Worldliness).
Note Matthew 4.

Verse 8:

- **Come near to God-** If you draw near to God, He will draw near to you. The Devil will have to get near God to get to you.

- **Cleanse your hands-** Just cleaning the hands will not get you into heaven, but the point here is that the works of evil are done with the hands. ***Spiritually speaking we know what it means to get clean. Katharizo.***
- **Sinners-** James calls them sinners. Only sinners get saved. *“Grace never saves a good man.”*
- **Purify your hearts-** **Hagnizo-** *purify, sanctify morally and ceremonially.*
- **The Old Double-Minded-** **dipsuchos-** The two spirited person. They go from obedience to rebellion in a flash. No consistency. Two brain man.

Verse 9:

- **Grieve-** **Talaiporeo-** To be wretched and afflicted. To realize one's own misery.
- **Mourn-** **Pentheo-** To wail and mourn.
- **Weep or cry-** **Klaio-** This is a silent weeping. A sobbing due to sin and guilt.
- **Let your laughter be turned to mourning.** God is not opposed to laughing and fun. But when the soul is filled with sin and the danger of hell looms, there is nothing to be happy about.
- **Turn the joy to gloom.** Don't whistle in the grave yard. Don't act like it's all okay when you are under condemnation. The Psalms are filled with the songs of a broken man that knew he needed to repent. ***His joy was restored and his laughter was returned through cleansing and holiness. Let your joy be real joy. Joy from holiness.***

Verse 10:

- If we humble ourselves He will lift us up. If He has to humble us we are disciplined. Verse 10 is the essence of submission. We take charge of our repentance and

submission. I chose to stop being rebellious. **Hupsoo**- Then He lifts us up from the sorrow of sin. He forgives the rebellion in us and brings the joy again.

There is nothing like the cleansing power of Christ's love to dispel the darkness and bring the fresh joy of heaven.

IV. Battle Number 4: Judging Others- Verses 11-12

It's awesome that as I go through these NT books that the same things keep coming up. In Romans we dealt with all these things as well.

- **Katalaleo**- Don't speak slander about another. To speak when one is not present (Rogers). To defame or speak against. To talk down on someone.
- **Krino**- To judge or to damn. To condemn or punish or sentence.

The law of God doesn't need any help. The law does its job quite well. We judge others with the same law we are judged with. That's crazy. You never want to put yourself in the place of God or the law to condemn others.

The only one who can judge with the law is the one who keeps it. If you use the law to condemn and you can't keep the law then you actually are judging the law itself. You become a hypocrite.

Verse 12: The only one who has the right to judge is the law giver. He is also the Judge. He has the power to **save** and **destroy**.

James comes back with a resounding, **“Who are you to judge your neighbor?”** Modern translation could be, *“Who do you think you are?”*

V. Battle Number 5: Boasting/Pride- Verses 13-17

I had a lot of trouble trying to name this section. James is definitely talking about pride and boasting but not specifically speaking about a braggart. James is really bringing out the problem we all face in the battle to do God’s daily will.

We do so many things without speaking to God about it. Now I don’t spend all day asking God what shirt to wear, but you know what I am talking about. James is speaking more so about our lack of God’s approval on our plans. Someone may just brag about how good they are at something, or claim victory ahead of time.

Illustration: “Well you can take it to the bank, by tomorrow, I will be the president, or by the this time next year, we will be the best company in this town.”

Prov 16:1-3

16 To man belong the plans of the heart,
but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue.

2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him,
but motives are weighed by the Lord.

3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.

NIV

Prov 16:12

9 In his heart a man plans his course,
but the Lord determines his steps.

NIV

Prov 19:21

21 Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

NIV

Verse 13: The word here for *business* or the phrase *buy and sell* is the Greek word **emporeuomai**. We get our word emporium from this word. A large store selling a wide variety of goods.

James wants us to remember that God wants us to be about his business. We all fight doing the Lord's bidding. It's a battle. I want you to know that I am going to not let my will interfere with His will. **The big question is this... have I asked God into my plans? Are my plans His plans? Am I going to the right city, on the right day, or am I doing the right thing for the right price?**

Verse 14: James reminds us of the brevity of life. It can end shorter than we want and live for the temporary? Live for the eternal. The best way to enjoy all God has given us here and now is to know that it is not all there is. You are just a mist. You might not be here tomorrow. *Bro. Doug (A fireman) says, through the years, all the people that he has seen that died, had no idea that that particular day and time was never contemplated as their last day on earth. Death by accident came suddenly and without notice.*

Quote: *"If your life ended right now, could you honestly say that you lived it the way you (God) wanted?"*

Illustration: I see these vapors these days blowing a big cloud out of their cars. Looks pretty cool to blow all that stuff in the air. We never knew how much our lungs would hold until we saw it in the air from the vapors. And then in a flash it's gone. The mist

disappears so fast. Gone into thin air. Hairspray. Steam from a boiling pot. A life. Gone in a second.

Verse 15: James doesn't intend for us to walk around quoting this verse every time we go to do something. The point is that God needs to be in your plans. He has a will for your life and that will is best for you. If you chose otherwise, you are getting fifth or sixth best. Not even second best.

Quote: Dr. Gray... "Find God's will... get in it... stay in it.

Verse 16: To not do God's will and to live out your will for this life is boasting and bragging. Every day you live outside of God's will, you are boasting in the face of God that you know better than He does. Boasting is evil. Don't believe it? Look at the next verse.

Verse 17: If you know to do good, and don't do it, it is sin. Let me say that doing what you know to be wrong is bad, but it's not as bad as knowing the good you should be doing and not doing that.

I would like to say that people know what to do that is good. They just don't do it. They know how to say what is good, they just don't do it. They know how to act good, they just don't.

Closing:

Can you imagine what we could accomplish if all our members were engaged in ministry? Look what we are getting done with just us. Just think if I had 200 people coming on Wednesday night to pray.

What if all 400 of us were serving instead of selfish
 What if 400 of us were sanctified instead of worldly?
 What if 400 of us were Submissive instead of rebellious?

What if 400 of us were done with slander and judging?

What if 400 of us were living in God's will and that was our boast?