

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Undivided Devotion: The Letter of James*

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### **Waking up from Worldliness (James 4:1-12)**

**1. How can I tell? (vv. 1-3)**

**2. How bad is it? (vv. 4-6)**

**3. How should I respond? (vv. 7-10)**

#### **Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

#### **Going Deeper:**

2. How does this section (4:1-12) relate to what precedes in 3:1-18? How were James' hearers acting in a worldly way (see 4:11-12)? What did the church's speech reveal about the desires of their hearts (4:1-3)?
3. Why does James use such graphic language to indict his readers (see vv. 4, 8)? How does his language echo that of the Old Testament prophets (see Ezekiel 16:1-63; Hosea 1:1-11)? How do such indictments relate to God's jealousy (4:5-6; see Exodus 20:5)? What is the point of such language? How does this language sensitize us to both the gravity of our sin, and the gravity of God's grace (see 4:6-7)?

**Application:**

4. James provides a series of tests by which we can determine if we're acting in a worldly way (4:1-3). Which of these stood out to you? Why?
5. According to James, our external conflicts reflect our internal conflicts (4:1-2). How does this change the way we approach interpersonal conflict? Think about a conflict you've been in recently? In the middle of this conflict, what internal battle have you been fighting? What internal battle has the other person been fighting? How does this reshape the way you view your conflict with them?
6. In verses 7-10, James shows us how to humble ourselves before God (vv. 7, 10): (1) Submission to God (v. 7); (2) Rejection of sin (v. 7); (3) Confession of sin (v. 8); (4) Grief over sin (v.9). How do each of these actions demonstrate humility before God? What's God's promise to those who humble themselves in this way? Think about a way you have been acting worldly. What would it look like for you to work through these steps, and humble yourself before God?
7. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?