Lesson 25 James 4:1-12

How To End Wars

1. Read 4:1-2. Identify the sources of quarrels.

1 Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions\* that make war within your members?

2 You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask.

2. In verses 2-3 James says we should deal with our desires by asking God for what we want. What could be the reason we sometimes resist asking God?

2 You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask.

3 You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

4 Adulterers!\* Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

3. James says we don't receive because we ask with wrong motives. Can you give some examples of misguided prayer?

4. A. What is meant by "adulterous people" (vs. 4)?

4 Adulterers!\* Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

 B. What does it mean to have "friendship with the world" (vs. 4)?

5. What does James say is necessary in order to come to God in prayer (vs. 4-10)?

 4 Adulterers!\* Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

 5 Or do you suppose that the scripture speaks without meaning when it says, “The spirit that he has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy”?\*

 6 But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”\*

 7 So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds.

 9 Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

6. How do each of these (in question 5) contribute to a humble spirit?

7. Are there situations in your life where humility could help you become a source of peace? Explain.

8. What reasons do you find here (vs. 11-12) for not slandering or speaking badly about another person?

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brothers. Whoever speaks evil of a brother or judges his brother speaks evil of the law and judges the law.\* If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save or to destroy. Who then are you to judge your neighbor?

9. If we judge the law, what does this say about our attitude toward the lawgiver.

10. How does a proper attitude toward God (vs. 12) enable us to have a proper attitude toward others?