

James – Embracing Humility

Jonathan Cleveland

James 4:4-10

October 25, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Sometimes we need our hearts filled with the longing we see in James' heart

He wanted to shake his readers and help them see there was something better.

*How do you see yourself needing some shaking these days? Where are you half-hearted, distracted or confused?

God and the world are an either-or proposition

Pride and living for self puts us on a trajectory that rejects God.

Read and discuss James 4:4-6(ESV)

⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

*What do adultery and enmity mean in these verses?

*What are some versions of our pride? What are some of the consequences for choosing self?

James gives us a list of things that help us reject pride

Read and discuss James 4:7-10(ESV)

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore 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 double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

*What are some of the things this passage calls us to?

*How can these instructions shake us from our pride?

Humility is everything

There is no quality that has a greater impact on our spiritual life than humility.

>>Humble people discover their junk

>>Humble people are honest about their junk with others

>>Humble people stretch themselves beyond comfort

*How was humility the defining quality of Jesus' life?

*What is the difference between humility and embarrassing ourselves?

*Is there one of these that you sense God is shaking you on?

*How do we uncover the junk that we have a hard time seeing?

*If you are comfortable sharing, is there something you need to be honest with someone about?

*Where do you need to stretch yourself?

Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church

[James Reading Plan](#)

October 25th – 31st

James 5:1-20

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Humility](#) by Myroslava Machylian

Song for reflection [I Surrender All](#) by Jadon Lavik

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.