

James – Sidekick Theology

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James 4:11 – 5:6

November 8th, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

James consistently tells us how our faith in Jesus should change everything in our lives

He has no motivation outside of trying to help us spiritually.

*Has someone held this type of role in your life? What is helpful about a mentor like James?

Kingdom people don't make enemies out of humans

Instead we fight for grace for others.

Read and discuss James 4:11-12(ESV)

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

*What do these verses say about God? About us?

*Why do you think we fall into the trap of judging others?

*How does experiencing grace from the only righteous judge help us become slower to judge others?

Kingdom people don't make plans for ourselves

Instead we strategize with God for His will.

Read and discuss James 4:13-17(ESV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

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

*How have you tended to treat God as a supplement to your full life?

*How can we practically tie the focus of our future to what He is doing?

Kingdom people don't hoard our wealth

Instead we use our wealth for other people.

Read and discuss James 5:1-6(ESV)

⁵ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

*What is this passage really saying about money and wealth?

*How can we overcome our tendency to excuse ourselves from thinking of ourselves as 'rich people'?

*How do we keep an accurate perspective of our wealth and what to do with it?

He is the only hero of this story about His Kingdom

The hero of all heroes has invited us into the story he is writing – as a sidekick.

*Where have you made yourself the hero of the story? What judging, arrogance, or self-indulgence do you need to turn from?

*What are some ways to lean in to being the sidekick – to loosen our grip on our judgements, our plans and our wealth?

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

[James Reading Plan](#)

November 8th – 14th

James 2:1-26

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [By Your Side](#) by Yongsung Kim

Song for reflection [Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me](#) by CityAlight

*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.