

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 3rd May 2020  
Sermon Title: The Character of God's Family - humility  
Bible Passage: James 4: 1 - 10

### **Introduction**

- What are do you think churches fight or quarrel over most?
- Is it ever OK to fight/quarrel in church?

### **Recapping the preach:**

Take time to read the passage again, perhaps read it a few times from different versions:

- How would you summarise the key message of the passage?
- Is there anything in this passage that surprised you?
- Was there anything in the passage or preach that you found yourself resisting, pulling away from or wrestling with what is being said?

James uses some strong language in the vs.1-4 as he addresses three issues namely fighting and quarrelling, unanswered prayer and unfaithfulness to God. The root of each of these problems according to James are the passions and desires that wage war within us.

- What 'conflicts and disputes' are you involved in at the moment?
- How do you feel about fights / quarrels or we might say, 'healthy conflict'?
- James begins the chapter with a question, 'what causes fights and quarrels among you'? How would answer it?
- What do you think he means when he says, 'they war within you'? In this battle within you, who usually wins?
- Unanswered prayer: compare James 4:2b-3 with John 15:7. What is the difference? How would you reconcile these two verses?
- What does it mean to have friendship with the world?

Read James 4:5 from different translations.

- What are the differences?
- Which version do you think best captures the flow of the passage?
- How does it feel to think, God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'?

Even though James has pointed out that the problem is with our passions and desires that are worldly, he hold out hope for us in vs.6 which says 'But he gives more grace'. This is then followed up with the practical steps which help us to walk in the way of wisdom.

- Stu suggested that there is a sequence in the practical steps that James suggests. Do you agree, why?
- What aspect of this advice is most difficult to follow?
- Do you see yourself as someone who follows this advice, resists it or explains it away?
- Are there ways you can see this advice being particularly helpful in your walk with God and others?

### **Response**

- What is one thing you will be 'taking away' from this message to continue to reflect on in the coming week?

**Prayer pointers**

- Pray for all those in leadership to walk in humility.
- Pray for one another to be peace-makers in the midst of conflict
- Pray for our nation during this continued crisis.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>