

Series: BeReal.
Passage: James 4:1-12
Sunday: August 3, 2025

James 4:1-12 (ESV)

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **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." **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.

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?

1. How can our desires and attitudes hinder unity in our relationships and the Church?

2. What is something you are jealous of, that you would do anything to obtain it?

3. List things you've prayed for that didn't line up with God's will for your life? Why was it a wrongful prayer?

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4. How does friendship with the world relate to adulterous people? Dig into the meaning of “adulterous people”. What is James trying to communicate?
5. Read verse 5 out loud and define it in your own words. Why is God jealous of our spirit?
6. What practical things can we do to draw close to God and flee from the devil?
7. Why does James call us to mourn and weep? How does this kind of humility lead to being exalted by God?
8. What law are we rebelling as we judge our brothers and sisters (See Matthew 22:2)? How are we rebelling God when we judge our brothers and sisters and the law?