

JAMES CHAPTER 4

THE TWO REALITIES

Warm-up: Thinking over the way people have reacted to Covid, do you think people were more self-centred or less? What were/are some examples of these reactions? Do you think there will be any lasting effects of the pandemic on people's attitudes?

PART 1 – THE DIAGNOSIS

Trace some of the comments made in the Bible about the choice of two ways to live:

- Joshua 24:15
- Matthew 6:21-24
- Matthew 7:13-14
- 1 John 2:15
- Rev 12:11

Q: From verses 1 to 6 of James, what were his concerns about how the people were living? How did this behaviour fit in with the choice of the 2 ways to live that you read above?

Q: Why did James call this behaviour adultery? What does James mean by saying that friendship with the world means enmity with God? Does that seem harsh?

Q: Woody Allen said that “the heart wants what the heart wants’. What did he mean by that? Contrast that with Jeremiah 17:9. Why cannot we trust our hearts?

PART 2 – THE CURE

Q: Can you find 7 ways to spiritual recovery in verses 4 to 10?
(Could summarise as Submit - Repent- Resist - Draw near – Purify)

Q: What does God promise to those who choose his way?

The Bible so often reminds us that these issues are spiritual and that overcoming is a spiritual battle.

Q: How can we resist the devil? READ Eph 6:10-18 and ask yourself how often you recognise this battle.

Q: James reminds us that the motivation for what we do is a great test of which road we are on. How can we be sure that our motivation is right?

TO THINK AND PRAY OVER

Over the next week, ask God to help you to act with the right motives and see if you can more clearly recognise when your motivation is not correct.