




# James

The Epistle of Straw?



# Recap

- ▶ Last week, we discussed those passions and desires which war within us, the fights they cause, and the God who is jealous for “the spirit that he has made to dwell within us. (James 4:5)”
- ▶ James encourages not passion, but submission and humility.



“Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8)



# Bad Uses of the Tongue: **Speaking Evil & Boasting**






Our topic today



# An Interlude

## *James 4:11–12*

<sup>11</sup> 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.



<sup>19</sup> ...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1)

# An Interlude

## *James 4:11–12*

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1)

<sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. (James 2)



# An Interlude

## *James 4:11–12*

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.

But who are you to judge your neighbor?



<sup>10</sup> Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> ...If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (James 2)



# Come now (Part 1)!

## *James 4:13–17*

<sup>13</sup> 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”— <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Or Psalm 39: “Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!”

of mist?

Or Psalm 102, Job 7, Psalm 78...  
...now, you...  
...such a town and spend a year... and  
...and make a profit”—<sup>14</sup> 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.

But it might also be Psalm 144: “Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.”

This may be a reference to Ecclesiastes 1: “Vanity, vanity... all is vanity!”  
In Hebrew, the word “vanity” also means “mist” or “vapor,”  
so this can be read “Vapor, vapor... all is vapor!”





# How often do I use this phrase?

## *James 4:13–17*

<sup>13</sup> 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”— <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”



# **Boasting? I call this “planning!”**

## *James 4:13–17*

<sup>13</sup> 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”—<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”<sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance.



# **Boasting? I call this “planning!” ...Oh.**

## *James 4:13–17*

<sup>13</sup> 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”—<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”<sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

# So = Therefore

## *James 4:13–17*

<sup>13</sup> 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”— <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

This “So” is from a Greek word meaning, “therefore.”



To plan without  
considering the Lord is sin.

Summary



All our plans should  
include the Lord.

Summary



All our plans should  
be shaped by the Lord.

Summary



All our plans should  
depend on the Lord.

Summary





## Recap, Pt. 2

- In the last few chapters, we've discussed
  - Desire, Passions, and Temptation
  - Things which come from God vs. Things which come from man
  - Humility, Submission, and Repentance
  - Bad uses of the Tongue – Boasting and Slander
  - Wisdom and the Word/Law of God
  - Perfection/Completeness
- Think on all that we've discussed as we read back through James 1



## Where's this coming from?

*James 1:12-15*

In the last few verses,  
we've discussed

Passions and Temptation

Things of God vs.  
Things of man

Humility and Repentance

Bad uses of the Tongue

Word/Law of God

Perfection/Completeness

Think on all that we've  
discussed as we read back  
through portions of  
*James 1/2*

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



## Where's this coming from?

*James 1:16-21*

In the last few verses,  
we've discussed

Passions and Temptation

Things of God vs.  
Things of man

Humility and Repentance

Bad uses of the Tongue

Word/Law of God

Perfection/Completeness

Think on all that we've  
discussed as we read back  
through portions of  
James 1/2

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



## Where's this coming from?

*James 1:22-25*

In the last few verses,  
we've discussed

Passions and Temptation

Things of God vs.  
Things of man

Humility and Repentance

Bad uses of the Tongue

Word/Law of God

Perfection/Completeness

Think on all that we've  
discussed as we read back  
through portions of  
James 1/2

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

<sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

<sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



## Where's this coming from?

*James 1:26-27*

In the last few verses,  
we've discussed

Passions and Temptation

Things of God vs.  
Things of man

Humility and Repentance

Bad uses of the Tongue

Word/Law of God

Perfection/Completeness

Think on all that we've  
discussed as we read back  
through portions of  
James 1/2

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



## Where's this coming from?

*James 2:8–13*

In the last few verses,  
we've discussed

Passions and Temptation

Things of God vs.  
Things of man

Humility and Repentance

Bad uses of the Tongue

Word/Law of God

Perfection/Completeness

Think on all that we've  
discussed as we read back  
through portions of  
James 1/2

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



# Discussion Questions

For journaling, calling a friend, discussing with family, and prayer



How much of my time and energy is  
spent planning?

How often is God a part of my plans?

Discussion Question





# What do I boast about?

Discussion Question



What two attitudes does James encourage for those who are tempted to boast?

Discussion Question



# The Rich

Next Week...



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