**James Chapter 4**

In James 3:13-18 the apostle had contrasted the wisdom which is from above with that which is from beneath. The wisdom from above is peaceable, pure, and gentle, leading to universal kindness and order; the wisdom from earthly, sensual, and devilish. The points suggested in this chapter grow directly out of the remarks made there, and are designed to show the effect of the "wisdom which descendeth not from above," as evidenced in the spirit of this world, and thus by contrast to show the value of true wisdom, or of the spirit of God.

James Chapter 4 is one of the hardest-hitting passages of Scripture in the New Testament! It begins with asking an important question – what is the source (“root cause”) of conflicts in the church? The answers are not very flattering. However, by understanding these “root causes” we can experience greater peace, power and provision through a closer walk with Jesus.

1. Read verse 1. What were the two problems that were happening “among” the believers? What

did James identify as the SOURCE of these problems?

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2. Read verses 2 and 3. What ACTIONS did the believers do, and what were the results of each

action?

**Ye and ;**

**Ye , and to , and cannot ;**

**Ye and , yet ye , because ye ;**

**Ye , and , because ye , that ye**

**may upon .**

3. Read vs. 4. Why do you think that James calls them “adulterers and adulteresses”? What is it

that they do not know?

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4. What does friendship with the world make you? Why? HINT: read I John 2:15-17 and Romans

1:18-32. In light of this truth, let’s examine the popular motto “Go along to get along”.

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5. Read vss. 5-6. Who is “the Spirit that dwells within us”? HINT: read Romans 8:9-17

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6. What does God do to the proud? What does He do to the humble?

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7. Read vss. 7-10. What does James instruct every believer to do to God?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To the devil?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What will HE do if WE do?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8. What happens if we “draw nigh” (nearer) to God?

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9. List all of the things James teaches we need to do in order to get closer to God:

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10. What will God do if we humble ourselves in His presence?

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11. Read verses 11-12. What do you suppose James means about “speaking evil” of another

Christian? HINT: read Matthew 18:15

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12. What do we become if we do? What are the qualifications for that position? Who alone IS

qualified?

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13. Read vss. 13-16. In verse 13, it sounds like James is upset with people who like to make plans

for the future. What is the real problem (verse 14)?

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14. From God’s perspective, what is our life?

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15. What should all Christians take into consideration when making plans?

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16. What “attitude problem” do we reveal if we act without consideration of God’s will?

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17. Read verse 17. What does God call it if we knowingly act contrary to His will?

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