

Sermon Discussion Guide

DATE: **November 17, 2019**

PASSAGE: **James 4:1-10**

TITLE: **Faith Takes Grit – The Solution to our Heart’s Pollution Problem**

Speaker: **Josh Weidmann**

40 WORD SUMMARY: The root of the problem is our wicked desires that are born out of selfishness, resulting in quarreling, and putting other’s down. We can even pray with wrong motives based on our love for self and the world. The results in grieving the Holy Spirit and requires that we humble ourselves in order to change our thinking to align with that of Jesus.

Reflection – Read James 4:1-10 again, slowly and contemplatively. As you do, read with a spirit of prayer.

Discussion –

1. James star describes some aspects of the human condition. What do you see those things being based on this passage? How do those fit with your own experience either with your own heart or observations with others?
2. Read 3 John 1:9. Explain what it means to have the intention of being first, as opposed to being willing to be second, or even last as Jesus modeled.
3. Read I cor 13:4-7. Explain how living a life with this intention of heart changes
4. Bonhoeffer said in a sermon, “Those who would learn to serve must first learn to think little of themselves... Only those who live by the forgiveness of their sin in Jesus Christ will think little of themselves in the right way. They will know that their own wisdom completely came to an end when Christ forgave them.” What do you think he was getting at here?
5. Later in the passage James now presents some remedies for this spiritual malady. What are those and how might they be helpful?
6. Sometimes there are things in our lives that we should be grieved over, and even lament or cry over. God says there is spiritual benefit to spiritual brokenness. Read verses 7-10 from James 4, and I Peter 5:6-9. Explain what repentance is and in what ways that might involve tears and in what ways that might involve great, amazing, and incredible joy.