

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



Jas 4:1 What is the source of quarrels & conflicts among you?

LB = Quarrels & fights

AMP = Feuds & conflicts

NCV = Fights & arguments

Greater New Zion Baptist Church Henderson County NC. 1-31-2011 Brawl over their preacher-firing 20 cops called. Caught on video.

I calmed 2 near fist-fights: 1 in building, 1 in pk lot.

James 3:15-16 Earthly, natural demonic wisdom creates jealousy, selfish ambition & disorder.

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



Jas 4:1 What is the source of quarrels ...

Quarrels [Polemoi]
properly **Wars, battle**.
Also disputes, strife.
Thayers

Some “interpreters have connected “**wars**” with the *civil, political conflicts which agitated the Jewish people at this period of their history*, & prepared the way for the memorable destruction which ... came on them at the hands of the victorious Romans.” (compare Mat Henry; JFB.)

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels

“But it would appear, from what follows [ie v.2-6], that they were struggles about ordinary ... affairs: influence, reputation, position, especially property & money...”
Biblical Illustrator.

(Coffman, Barnes, Lenski all concur. See note page)



James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



“What they sought was prosperity of that earthly kind. They envied & injured one another. This state of things has not been confined to the early age, nor to Jewish converts. Fighting [is] still among the members of the Church!” Biblical Illustrator

“Bitter rivalries among the professed disciples of the same Master, the adherents of that gospel which is all animated with love, and imbued with peace!” Biblical Illustrator

You do something ‘they’ don’t like, and they’ll try to destroy you! LDW comment

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



Jas 4:1
Is not *the*
source, your
pleasures that
wage war in
your members.



Boasting makes me look good.
Money and I want control of it.
Personality & I don't like theirs.
Favoritism, I like some, but not them.
Running others down makes them look worse.
Gossip makes me look important, them look bad.
Why teach false doctrine – I sound intelligent.

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels

Jas 4:2
You lust and
do not have...

Epi thumeo “To set the heart
upon, long for covet, desire.
(good or bad)

Jas 4:2
So you
commit
murder...

(1 Tim 3:1)
(1 Pet 1:12)

“Kill is to be taken in the sense of *hatred* proceeding from *envy*, as in (1 John 3:15). ‘Every one who hates his brother is a *murderer*.’” (Coffman)
The Attitude produces the act.

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels

James 4:2 You do not have because you **do not ask**.

James 4:3 **You ask and do not receive**, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it on your pleasures*.

Can pray for anything good (Phil 4:6; 3 John 1:2)
With balance (Prov 30:8-9)

Is my motive right in prayer?

One's desires
Conflicts,
& wars.

Then hate,
and death.

Then no
prayer

Or, pray for
wrong things.

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels

Jas 4:4 *You adulteresses*,
do you not know
that friendship
with the
world is
hostility
toward
God?

God's people
are His Bride
Isa 54:5;
2 Cor 11:2;
Eph 5:24f;
Rev 19:7

God's
people
became
idolaters !
Jer 3:8-9; Hos
4:11; **Col 3:5**



James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels

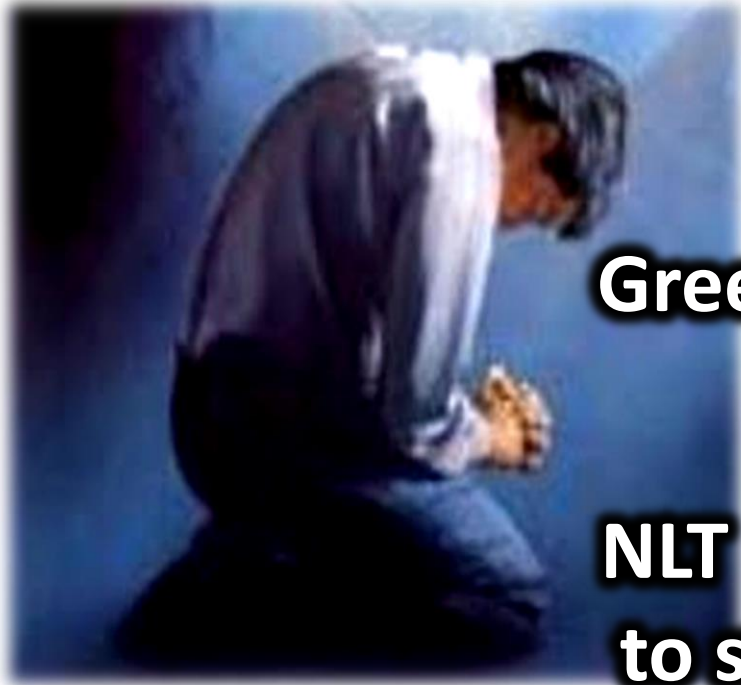
James 4:5 Or do you think that the *Scripture* speaks no purpose: "*He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us*"?

Heb 12:9 *Father* of spirits.

Zech 12:1 *God forms* the spirit of man within him.

Ex 20:3 *You shall have no other gods before Me.*
v. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, you shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



Jas 4:6 **NIV** But He gives
more grace.

Greek: [mei-zon] a greater degree.

NAS: "A greater grace."

NLT He gives us even more grace
to stand against such evil desires.

HOW? 1 Cor 10:13 God provides ***a way of escape***

Heb 4:16 Let us... draw near with confidence to
the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and ***may find grace to help in time of need.***

James 4:1-6 Source of Quarrels



***“I’m Smart.
I’m RIGHT.
They’re WRONG.
It’s as simple as that.”***

Or is it...?

Jas 4:6 – God is opposed the proud but gives *grace to the humble*. (cf Ps 138:6; Prv 13:34)

Lk 18:9-14 *Pharisee & Tax collector.*

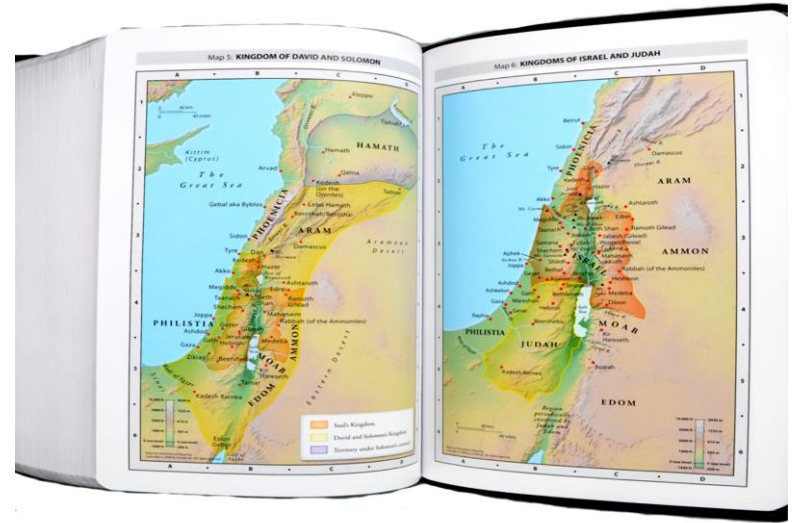
“God be merciful to me the sinner.”

This man went down to his house justified.

(Lk 14:11) Everyone who *humbles* himself shall be exalted.

Nutty things Folks Fussing Over

1. Some said “You can have *maps* in the back of your Bible because that means they are IN your Bible.



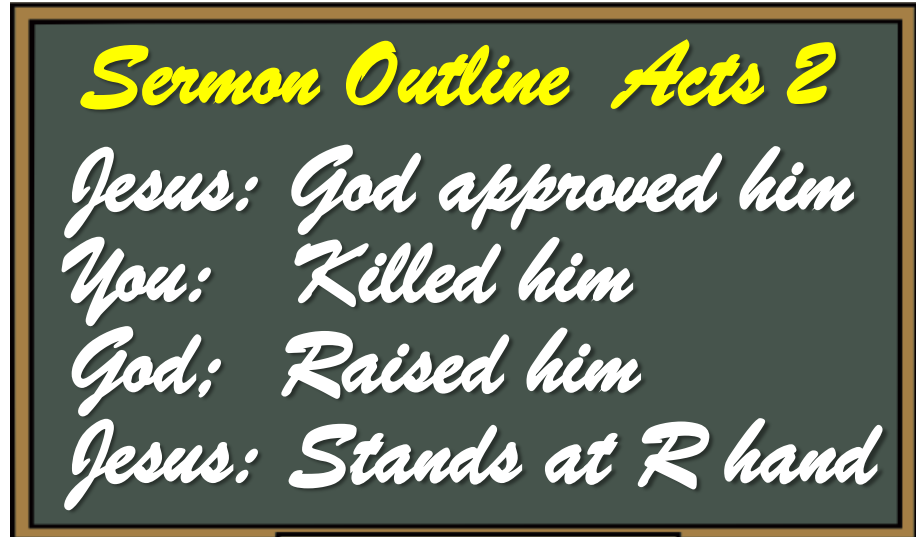
But you can't buy a set of maps to put in a classroom because that would be ADDING to the Bible.”

Rev 22:18 If anyone *hears the* WORDS of the prophecy of this book: if anyone *adds* to them, God shall add to him the *plagues* which are written in this book.”



Nutty things Folks Fussled Over

2. Some said a preacher
“could put his sermon
outline” on the
black-board &
preach the sermon.



But couldn't copy it & hand
out copies because that
would be using literature
like the denominations &
adding human ideas to
the Bible.



Nutty things Folks Fussing Over

3. Some said 'We are to rise while we sing, & all walk up *and pass in front of the table where a basket is placed and drop our contribution* in the basket.



The reason: We are told to "lay by" in store. (KJV 1 Cor 16:2.) Presumably to "walk by" ???

Greek: [Tith-e-mi] "to set, put or place" Thayer
"to deposit money with a banker" Louw

Nutty things Folks Fussied Over



4. For Lord's Supper you *Must* use just "**One cup.**" But you may use "**2 glasses**".

One glass is passed on **left side** of the building from which everybody must drink, and the other **one on the right**. Why? **Expedient** !

James 4:7-12 Solution to Quarrels



Jas 4:7 **Submit** therefore to God.
Resist the devil & he will flee from you.

[Like Jesus did. Mat 4:11]

Jas 4:8 **Draw near** to God (**improve your Relationship**) and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners. (**Correct the actions**)

This expression, “Let us draw near,” used in **Heb. 10:22ff** as applied to believers in view of their sincere faith and baptism.

v.8 **Purify** your hearts (**ask for forgiveness Acts 8:22**)

v.9 Be **miserable** & **mourn** & **weep**. (**genuine sorrow**)

v.10 **Humble** yourselves ... & He will **exalt** you.

James 4:7-12 Solution to Quarrels

James 4:11a

Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, *speaks against the law.*

Royal Law (Jas 2:8)

"Love your neighbor as yourself"

Is it a Crummy Law ?

James 4:11b

But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a *judge* of it.

Jas 4:12 *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,* the One who is able to save and to destroy; but *who are you* who *judge* your neighbor?

James 4:13-17 **Being Over Confident**

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Jas 4:13 *Come now, you who say,*
"Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and
such a city, and spend a year there and engage
in business and make a profit."

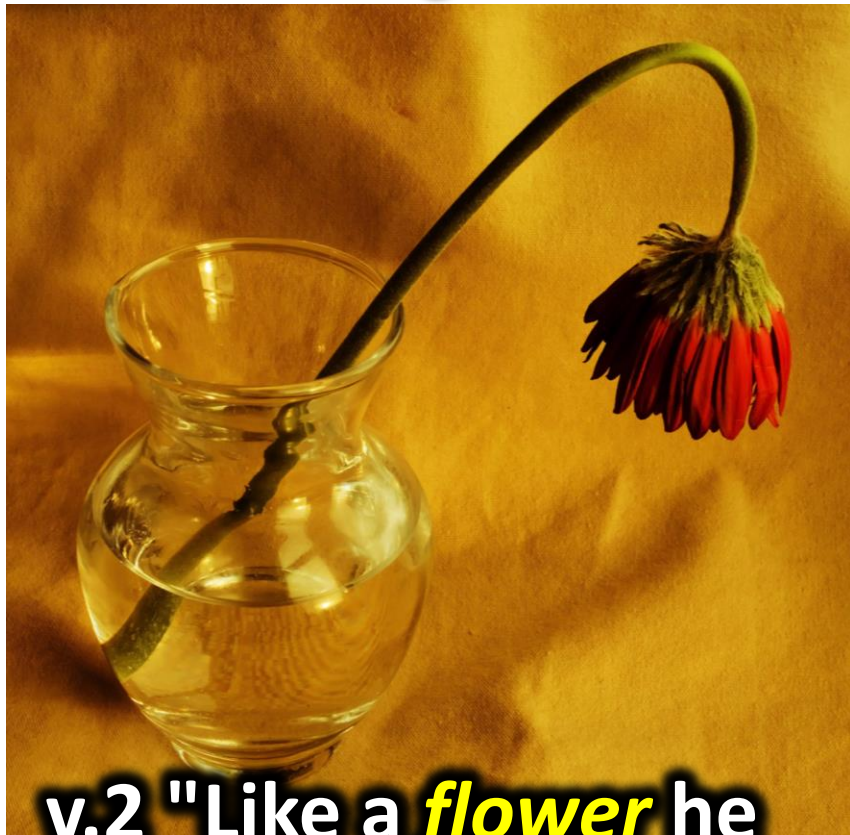
James 4:13-17 Trusting The Lord

Jas 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like **tomorrow**. You are *just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*

Ps 90:10 As for the days of our life, they contain **seventy** years, Or if due to strength, **eighty** years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; *For soon it is gone and we fly away.*

James 4:13-17 Trusting The Lord

Job 14:1 "Man, who is born of woman, is *short-lived and full of turmoil*.



v.2 "Like a *flower* he comes forth & withers.



"He also flees like a *shadow* & does not remain.

James 4:13-17 Trusting The Lord

Jas 4:15 *You ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."*

Acts 18:21 *"I will return to you again if God wills."*

1 Cor 16:7 *I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.*

Heb 6:1, 3 *Let us press on to maturity and this we shall do, if God permits.*



Jenna Leigh + Mark J. Sebastian

James 4:13-17 Trusting The Lord

James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows *the right thing to do*, *and does not do it*, to him it is sin.

Cotton Mather (Puritan author) said, "The ability to do good in any case *imposes an obligation to do it*."

Barnes "No man can be released from the obligation to do good in this world *to the extent of his ability*; and no one should *desire* to be."



Lk 12:48 Much is given—*shall much be required*