

SUMMARY OF SERMON AT FBC ON SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2008
AT EVENING WORSHIP

The message was the fourth in a series of five on the five chapters of the book of James.

INTRODUCTION

The New Testament book of James was probably written by the half-brother of Jesus, known as James (Hebrew Jacob) who at one time in his life considered Jesus to be insane! Something changed in his thinking and he came to be a follower of Christ and produced the book of James. William's sermon covered the fourth chapter of his book which deals with submission of ourselves to God.

CORE SCRIPTURE

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:4

CONTEXT OF SERMON

James wrote to Jewish Christians. He was one of them, a recent convert from a life steeped in legalism and ritual. His punchy, powerful letter contains more than 51 imperatives ("must dos"). He addressed Christians amongst the 12 tribes living with pagans and subject to persecution but amongst whom there was also infighting and sharp speaking and a huge sense of materialism. Whilst they had accepted Jesus and were washed of their sins, they were spiritually immature.

William defined the difference between the law, often referred to as the Royal Law and a relationship with God. William aimed to address the questions:

What does this passage tell me about God?
What does this passage tell me about myself?

OUTLINE OF SERMON

Submission Ver 1- 3

The word "you" or "your" is mentioned approximately 15 times in these three opening verses. This highlights the fact that we are selfish sinners, wrapped in a deep friendship with the world.

Ver 4-5

This part of the passage refers to us as adulterers. This is an indication that as believers we are "married" to God. We need to delight ourselves in the Lord. Commit ourselves and our lives to the Lord as marriage is intended.

In answering the question, what does this passage tell me about God, the answer is that he is a jealous God. He wants all of us and he is jealous when we love the world more

than we love him. God as our Father is jealous and he wants to restore our relationship with him (Rom 7:14-23). He does not want a relationship with a stranger and he seeks a full commitment from us as believers.

It is our pride which allows us to have a love affair with the world.

Ver 6

God detests the pride of the heart

Ver 7-10

God had a plan for us. He knew that we would disappoint him. He knew that we would fall short of his glory but he still continues to take us back. We need to engage in a committed and honest relationship with the Lord. We like to think we are “married” to God but we are in a constant affair with the world. We:

- Love the world – idols
- Covet our neighbours possessions
- Steal
- Tempted

In addition to this, our spiritual Father knows all about our short comings as he knows each one of us. We need to be honest with ourselves and with God. We need to purify our lives and clean out. God wants us to be clean but we cannot be clean with the sin in our lives.

Ver 13-17

We must not and should not judge one another. We must remember that we are not God and there is a God. The true judge. If we judge we act like God and we can never be on par with God.

There is no room for loyalty with anything if it interferes with our relationship with God. The world is a faithless lover which will eventually destroy us. God desires our loyalty.

We need to look at our lives and see if we have God as our top priority. Are we married to God or to the world?