Draw Near To God

Ken Chapman · James 4:4–10

INTRODUCTION

- God says that He wants us with Him. That God wants us by Him. When James encourages us to draw near to God.
- This is the most fundamental and foundational thing about our Christianity.
- I keep his commandments so that I can be near to him.

1 Leave the World, Resist the World

James 4:4; James 4:8

- The first thing required in this text for us to draw near to God is that we've got to leave the world, resist the world.
- Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- Don't you know, he says, that friendship with the world puts you at odds with God? You can't have it both ways.
- If you're going to draw near to God, the first thing you've got to do is to make up your mind and choose. Choose. Who's it going to be?
- The first thing you need to do is to realize that you need to divorce yourself from the world.

2 Be Humble and Submit to God

James 4:6–7; Revelation 4; Acts 8

- If you're going to approach God, you better be humble.
- God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he'll flee from you.
- That should be fundamental in this relationship that God is God and we are not.
- He answers it in the most humble way possible. Says, how can I? Unless somebody explains it to me.
- God, whatever you want me to do, however, you want me to change my behavior, however, you want me to mold my character, I will do it.

3 Cleanse Your Hands and Purify Your Hearts

James 4:8

- Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- The heart's the inner man, the hands is the outer man, and really that signifies what we do, our actions.
- So you cleanse yourself inside and out. You cleanse your motives and your actions.
- To change really, not just what I do, that would be cleansing my hands, but to change who I am, cleansing my heart.

- God's asking a lot. But he's giving so much more.

4 Lament and Mourn and Weep

James 4:9–10; 2 Corinthians 7:10

- Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- I don't think God is saying we need to be a sour puss and no joy in life.
- Godly sorrow produces repentance. Maybe that's what James has in mind.
- Part of that humility is I just mourn and weep for my sin.
- A little bit of a recognition that the only way to fix that is in God. That He by His grace alone can fix this mess that I've become.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Will you draw near to God this morning? Cleanse your heart, cleanse your hands, humble yourself and submit to him. And he'll draw near to you.**

MY NOTES