

Humble Yourselves

James 4:10, I Peter 5:6

- The phrase that is our theme of the day appears in two passages
- We'll take a look at both today
- In them, it is translated "humble yourselves"
- Used twelve other times in the New Testament, it is also translated humble, brought low, or abased
- It is about "assigning yourself a lower rank"
- Or being "ranked below others who are honored or rewarded"
- It is a counter-cultural phrase
- One that our world (certainly) and our sinful flesh (perhaps) will fight against
- But God reminds us twice
- In James 4, and I Peter 5 - "Humble Yourselves"

James 4:1

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

- This passage begins with internal conflicts that work their way out
- Our desires, sinful lusts, cause wars and fightings among us
- They are a result of pride
- We do what we want, and when we do, never get what we want

- It clarifies...

James 4:2

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

- God alone can provide what we need
- But His commands go against our fleshly desires
- Those desires lead us far from God into sin
- Instead of providing what we desire, they destroy us

- We ask Him not for what is best
- Even when we do...

James 4:3

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

- Instead of working for other's good and God's glory
- We too often please ourselves

- The next verse describes us...

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- To live by our own desires is to live like the world
- To live according to that which the god of this world desires
- Not according to God's will
- And this puts us directly at odds with God
- Makes us an enemy of God

- The next section elaborates...

James 4:5-7

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- We're dealing with a problem
- Fighting a war within ourselves
- But praise God, He gives grace
- Not to the proud, which He resists
- But to the humble
- To those who assign themselves a lower rank
- That follow not their own desires
- But submit to Him
- Fully
- Without reservation
- Not leaving any room for their own will
- Only His will

- These kind of people resist the enemy
- And when we do, He flees

- Furthermore...

James 4:8

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

- If we have any hope of victory in this battle, we must draw near to Him
- To allow Him to cleanse and purify us
- And to set our mind on Him alone once and for all

- This will no doubt cause difficult moments...

James 4:9-10

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- The humbling of ourselves is the only way we can be lifted up
 - Seeking what He desires, leaving our own desires behind
 - Fulfills and satisfies
 - In ways no sin ever can, ever has, or ever will
 - Humble yourselves
1. Who we are in the flesh: lusts, internal conflicts of desire
 2. What that will cause: betrayal of God, failure, destruction
 3. God's character by contrast: He gives grace
 4. How we must respond: submit fully, arrange ourselves beneath, humble ourselves

I Peter 5:1-7

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- This is an exhortation from Peter
 - He can identify with these shepherds, as he is one himself
 - He asks them to feed and to oversee
 - To be an example, because they have the best example of all
 - Never to do so for the wrong motivations
 - But to understand who they are and where they rank
 - And also the reward that is waiting
- Younger should submit to elder
 - And all should submit to one another
 - Covering themselves with humility
 - Because the prideful are resisted by God
 - But grace is given to the humble
- Therefore all of us must humble ourselves

- Because God's hand is mighty
- And we are under His hand willingly or unwillingly
- We are even more blessed if we put ourselves there willingly
- And we cast our cares upon Him
- Because He truly cares

*Christopher Harper, **Take Note** 2024*