



“Pre”-James 4:4-5 Pt 3 - “You Loving People!” ☺

September 20, 2015

Pre-James 4:4-5?

1. As we've been saying, the spiritual and the practical, day-to-day implications in a text like James 4:4, even interpreted in a **NON-LEGALISTIC** way, are enormous. So much so, that in order to see and lovingly submit to the sacrifices our God asks of us might call for another look at “where we are going with this.”
2. “You cannot turn away from the ugly thing unless you understand how beautiful God's things are.”
Scott Brown
3. Last week, we looked briefly at “The Beauty of the LORD.” Seeing Him and His precepts as beautiful is important:
 - Because it helps to ease our transition from disobedient to **consistently** obedient.
 - Because the LORD's precepts ARE **beautiful** as He is, and it helps one to see that.
 - Because it gives one a better sense of the **heart** of the LORD.
4. We also mentioned some of the beauty of the “pictures” in Scripture, and how seeing them helps us walk in purity and love:
 - For example, almost the entire Old Testament paints a picture of God's **LOVE** in promising a Redeemer, but also God's **HOLINESS** which is why the Redeemer had to come. If you miss this, it can read harshly...as if our LORD is unjust or tyrannical. Nothing could be further from the truth!
 - Subsequently, almost the entire New Testament paints a picture of that loving Redeemer saving, exhorting, leading, and marrying His purified bride. Miss this, and spiritual complacency is a common result. *Would His betrothed, for whom He suffered and died, commit adultery with the world?*
5. Today, we'll start looking at James 4:4, but by *contrast*.

James 4:4 ESV You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

6. His accusation is harsh, “You adulterous people!” Wow! Remember, he's talking to Christians! But in keeping with our heart preparation for the exhortation to end friendship with the world, I had a “what if” sort of thought. (*The Playbook*, p37)
7. What if James' church was functioning as designed, and instead of a series of rebukes, he wrote a series of exhortations culminating in the encouraging declaration: “You Loving People!” ☺
8. Friends, the essence of spiritual adultery or unfaithfulness is a lack of **love** towards God.
9. But what if we understood and embraced His love more? What if we constantly considered His matchless grace and kindness towards us? What if we saw Him as a God who desires to be close to us? What if we became overwhelmed by the riches of His grace?
10. Let us look at His love towards us, that it might inspire us to love Him with more passion in return, and subsequently, **reject** the world. Next week, we'll begin to exegete the remainder of this chapter in earnest.

What a Loving God!

There are SO many ways to illustrate the love of God towards His people that I had to pick one. ☺ For simplicity, let us look briefly at His *creative and redemptive plan of love*.

God **created** us! What love!

Genesis 1:26-28 ESV Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Despite Man's **rebellion**, God Promised a Redeemer and cared for us! What love!

Genesis 3:11-21 ESV He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" (12) The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (13) Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (14) The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. (15) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (16) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (20) The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (21) And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Despite more rebellion, God is continually **merciful**! Look at the Rainbow; what love!

Genesis 9:11-15 ESV I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." (12) And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: (13) I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (14) When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, (15) I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God establishes a **people** through whom the Redeemer would come! What love!

Genesis 12:1-4 ESV Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. (2) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (4) So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

God gives the Law to **point** His people to the Redeemer! What love!

Exodus 20:1-3 ESV And God spoke all these words, saying, (2) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (3) "You shall have no other gods before me. Galatians 3:22-24 ESV But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (23) Now before faith came, we were held captive

under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. (24) So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

God promised a new **heart** for His people! What love!

Ezekiel 36:24-27 ESV I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. (25) I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. (26) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

God sends His **Son**! What love!

Matthew 1:21-23 ESV She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Christ gives His **Gospel**! What love!

John 3:14-21 ESV And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Christ establishes His **Church**! What love!

Matthew 16:18 ESV And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God gave His **Word**! What love!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

God gives us **teachers**! What love!

Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in

deceitful schemes. (15) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The **Marriage** of the Lamb at His Return! What love!

Revelation 19:6-9 ESV Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; (8) it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (9) And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Our **Eternal** State! What Love!

Revelation 22:1-5 ESV Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Now...**"You Loving People 😊,"** what is your response to all this love?

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **(5) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (8) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (9) You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
2. Deuteronomy 10:12-18 ESV (12) "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** (13) and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? (14) Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. (15) Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. (16) Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. (17) For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (18) He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
3. Matthew 22:36-40 ESV "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
4. 1 John 5:1-4 ESV Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone

who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. **(2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.** (4) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

A "loving people" cannot continually choose the world. May we be encouraged by the words of Peter:

*1 Peter 1:3-9 ESV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **(8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

Amen.