The Trouble With Me

Jared Bollman · James 4:1–17

INTRODUCTION

- What do you think is the single biggest impediment to your spirituality?
- What I'm talking about is how we get in the way of our own spiritual growth.
- This attitude of me may be the single biggest obstacle that any of us will ever run into.

1 Me Brings Division

James 4:1–2; Ephesians 4:25–32; Philippians 2:1–7

- You cannot draw closer to one another if you are only concerned with self.
- What is the source of the quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
- Me brings division because me only serves self.
- Be angry and yet do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.
- Anger is like an open door to the devil. And anger is a completely self-serving emotion.
- Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves.

2 Me Brings Separation

James 4:3–4; 1 John 2:15–17; Ephesians 4:17–24

- Friendship with the world is hostility toward God. Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- We choose where we spend eternity. We make that choice.
- If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- This is fundamentally a choice that is made by you for you.
- Put off the old, because it's been corrupted with lust and deceit. Be renewed in your mind. Put on the new, which has been made in the likeness of God.
- What we profess with the mouth and what we believe with the mind has got to be the same as what we do with the body.

3 Cure for Too Much Me Is a Lot Less Me

James 4:6–17; Matthew 11:28–30

- God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
- Instead, you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.

- There is a path set before us, but it requires some effort. It requires some sacrifice.
- We ought to be looking for the place where we fit instead of trying to fit God into what we're looking for.
- Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

THE CHALLENGE

When's the last time you said if the Lord wills and really meant if the Lord wills? When's the last time you really put me on the altar and sacrificed it to what God wishes and God desires?

MY NOTES