Where Does Conflict Come From?

Shawn Oleinik · James 4:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- His title of his sermon or his little lesson was Raising Cain without killing Abel.
- Anytime you've got people together, you've got the potential for conflict or some problems.
- But where does conflict come from, really?

1 The Source of Conflicts Comes From Wrong Motives

James 4:1–7

- What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
- You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives.
- Most of the source of our conflict with our spouse, our kids, our fellow Christians, people at work, is because there's wrong motives involved.
- An irritation in your life is calling attention to a need.

2 Anger Against God Causes Strife

Genesis 4:1–8

- If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door, and its desire is for you. But you must master it.
- Was Cain not angry at God? He was mad at God. Because God held him accountable for not doing what he was supposed to do.
- Cain didn't resist the devil. He gave way to the devil.
- Anger against God oftentimes is something that causes strife and it causes rivalry and it causes problems.

3 Favoritism, Temporal Values and Being Opportunistic

Genesis 25:27–34

- It says, Thus he despised his birthright.
- Esau, on his part, he had temporal values. Not looking at the long haul, not looking at the end of a thing when he's down here at the beginning.
- You've got favoritism, adds to conflict. Esau having temporal values. Jacob being opportunistic and taking advantage of others when he had the chance.

4 Deceit Fuels the Strife

Genesis 27:1–41

- Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing.

- If this guy will lie to me, he'll steal from me. And if he'll steal from me, he'll kill you.
- We need to always be vigilant to check ourselves against, letting some of these things creep into our feelings, feelings of bitterness or being slighted about something, or not quite telling the whole truth.
- This deceit fuels the strife. Esau's got a grudge against his brother to the point that he wants to kill him because of this.

5 Jealousy From Rachel Caused Strife

Psalm 73

- Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister.
- You got jealousy here from Rachel on her part. And it caused strife. It caused conflict. And she was also angry at God.
- I'm going to do what I know is right because we're living for our end, not today.

6 There's a Deeper Issue at Stake

Galatians 5:22–23

- When we've got a problem with a brother, and we've got conflict, there's a deeper issue at stake.
- When you go somewhere because you got problems, guess what? You take those problems with you because you're probably part of the problem.
- When you see a conflict in yourself, we need to step back and look for the character defect or the character deficiency that's causing that problem.
- He talks to us about the things that we need to work on in ourselves. Because at the end of the day, you're the only person that can do anything about you.
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things, there is no law.

THE CHALLENGE

My plea tonight with all of us is to diligently work towards good character in ourselves.

MY NOTES