

“What Was He Thinking?”

James 3:16-4:6

Introduction: James is looking at what we say and do in relationship to the _____ around us and in relationship to _____.

I. In relationship to the world: The life of Christians in the world is a _____.

A. James 4:1-2: “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.”

B. This battle comes from thinking too highly of ourselves; the sin of _____.

II. In relationship to God.

A. Pride can also turn our relationship with God into some kind of _____ religion.

B. James 4:3 “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

III. What was God thinking?

A. Isaiah 55:8-9 God says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

B. The wisdom of God, which had been hidden for ages, but is now revealed to us _____

1. _____ is the one who makes the wisdom and thoughts of God known to us. HE is the _____ that counts.

2. In _____ we see God's wisdom working out our redemption.

3. James 3:17 God's wisdom in Christ, "...is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

4. God uses this wisdom from above to oppose our _____ and to give _____ to the humble.

C. God put His thought into words, into THE _____, Jesus Christ.

1. God's thinking and His acting _____ us.

2. He still thinks and does these things today.

a. He still pours out His love for all people in the work of Jesus Christ through His _____.

b. He comes to us through His Spirit... and He _____ our sin.

IV. God's thoughts and actions _____ things.

A. They change our relationship with _____.

B. God's thoughts and actions also change our relationship with the _____ around us.

C. _____ have been changed by God.

1. We see that that the world isn't just for battle; it's also a place for _____; ground ready for planting and a harvest that needs to be brought in.

2. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our work, our life in this world, is creative; it's planting the seed of _____; it's sharing Jesus Christ, the wisdom from heaven and His love.

D. God's thought for us saved us through _____ in Jesus Christ and His thought for the world is for us to share His _____ by reaching out with the good news of Jesus Christ so that others would come to faith and be saved.

Conclusion: