

James 4:11-5:6
Avoiding Worldly Influences

Introduction

Question: Recall a time where you wanted to be in charge. Why? What happened?

James gives three examples of pride, along with specific reasons for humbling ourselves. Each reason is an example of the heavenly wisdom that keeps itself unpolluted by friendship with the world. And each is tied to the essential character of the Lord Himself.

James 4:11-12

1. What does it mean to slander or speak against another person? Can speaking the truth about someone ever constitute speaking against that person?

2. How is speaking against and judging a fellow believer speaking against and judging the law?

James 4:13-17

3. What attitude does James condemn in this passage? How is this proud and foolish?

4. Is it always wrong to plan for the future? If so, why? If not, what kinds of planning are wrong and what kinds are right?

5. What does James say ought to be a Christian's frame of mind when thinking about the future?

James 5:1-6

6. Using your own words, what have some rich people done to get in big trouble?

7. How can we know when we're guilty of living in luxury?

8. If James is not condemning all rich people, how can one be a good rich person?

Reflection

What one warning, command, or truth would you most like to take to heart?