

James 3:13—4:10

- **Humility, peace, and faithfulness walk hand in hand!**

- Pride, jealousy, and selfish ambition distract us away from where our hope lies.
- There is a greater demonstration of wisdom and peace in humility and sincerity than there is in fighting to be heard.
 - Players take a knee to receive coaching.
 - A quarterback takes a knee in victory formation.
 - Taking a knee demonstrates submission, respect, and a lowliness.
- Luther wrestled with James because of his emphasis on works, yet recognized that faith is also an action...we put our money where our mouth is!

- **We can't both play on both sides of the line!**

- We walk a fine line between self-destruction and redemption!
 - Within our own bodies we deal with jealousy, pride, and selfishness.
 - Within our life together we quarrel, argue, and align ourselves with the world
 - The devil seduces us to straddle the line, while God demands that we stay on sides.
- “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.” (James 4:4)
- We are called to take a knee in humility, with faithfulness that God's game plan is better than our own.

- **The Gospel gives clarity to our purpose and place!**

- **Acts of Service:** How can you be an agent of reconciliation? We are called out of jealousy and pride, to act in a way that surprises those around us in the world. Reach out to someone from a different background and seek to understand their side of the story and pray for opening to share God's side in their story.
- **Intentional Discipleship:** How can you take a knee to extend and receive forgiveness? With a laundry list of faults and failures in our readings this morning, we are called to own our sins in transparency, to repent and be forgiven. Confess and be unburdened in receiving God's grace! Demonstrate how to do so for those around you!
- **Invitations to Worship:** How will you take a knee in prayer? We are called to not just pray for those that we love or those who are the least of these, but also for our enemies and those we are at odds with. Our prayerful concern for our neighbor extends beyond differences to our commonalities as fellow creatures in Creation. Ask those around you how you can pray with them, and then pause and actually do it!
- “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (James 4:7-8)

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