

### PRACTICAL FAITH

A Letter from James



### Kingdom Humility - Pt.1 James 4:11-5:6

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### INTRODUCTION

- From the previous section we saw that “getting on” grace comes to those who humble themselves

In 4:6–10 James itemized for us a programme for the humble walk with God, our individual humility before him in the context of our personal fellowship with him.

But there are other areas also where, if we are not alert, the self will raise its proud head and where we must learn to cultivate a truly lowly estimate of ourselves and a fully worthy estimate of our God.

This is particularly in relation to other people and *what we say about them* (4:11–12), in relation to the *ordering of our lives and the laying of plans* (4:13–17), and in relation to *the husbanding and use of this world’s resources and goods* (5:1–6). ~Motyer

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### HUMILITY IN JUDGMENT

<sup>11</sup> Do not *speak evil* against one another, *siblings*.

The one who speaks against a sibling  
or judges his sibling,  
speaks evil against the law  
and judges the law. (Lev 19:16-18)

But if you judge the law,  
you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

<sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.

But who are you to judge your neighbor?

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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- He is not eliminating the need to address outright sin, something he himself does throughout his letter
- What is it to speak evil about a sibling?
  - Imposing our own standard, preferences, or convictions*
  - What is false or unsubstantiated
  - With ill-will and intention to hurt
  - With a lack of awareness of our own sinfulness
  - More than needs to be said
  - Highlighting failures while diminishing their good
  - Assuming or imputing motives
  - Making a declaration of their final condemnation

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### HUMILITY IN LIFE PLANNING

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say,  
 “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town  
 and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”  
 — <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.

What is your life?  
 For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say,  
 “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

<sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance.  
 All such boasting is evil.

<sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it,  
 for him it is sin.

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### RESPONSE

- What both of these have in common is that in these sins we are setting up ourselves as God
  - The self-god of judgment of others
  - The self-god of accomplishment and success
- The truth is that we can barely assess our own heart and deeds, how much less others
- The truth is that our very lives and any future is in the hand of God
- So we acknowledge and bow to “I am the LORD”

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