

Have You Ever Said...?

“If only ...”

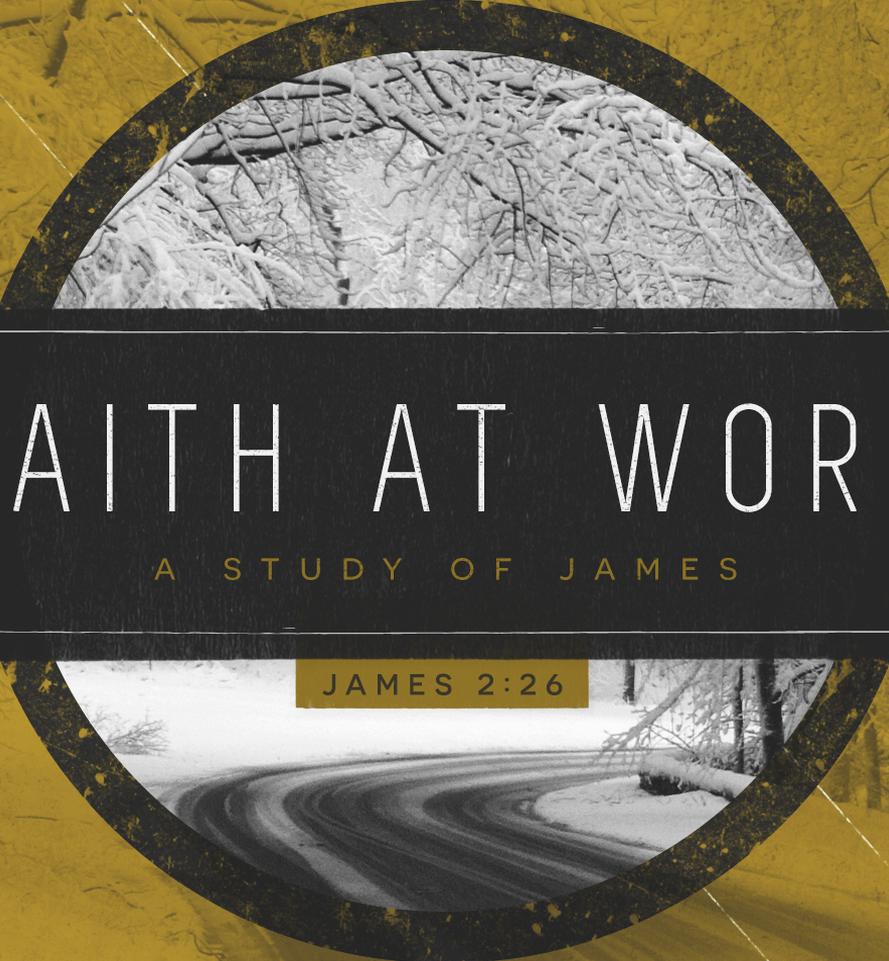
What Do You Think?

**“You serve best the
one you love most”**

*Love your neighbor
as you love yourself*

What Do You Think?

- Do you ever think about what you think about?
 - What do you daydream about?
 - Are there things you secretly long for? (“If only...”)



FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26

Context of James

- Tests reveal what you know/believe
- Whether He causes them or allows them, God uses trials to reveal to us how well we truly *understand* and *do* what we say we believe

Earthly Wisdom

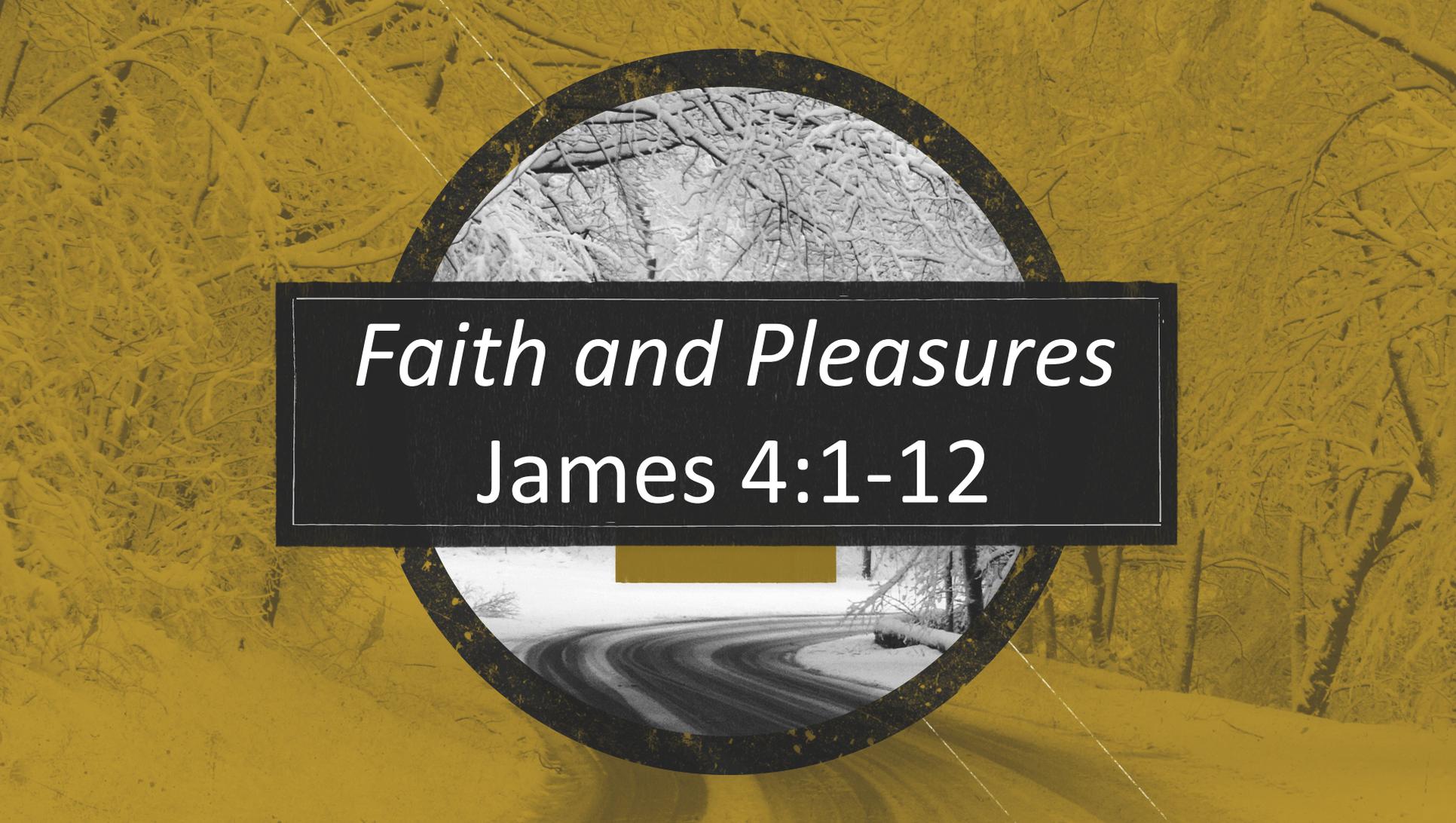
- Bitter jealousy, selfish ambition (factiousness), arrogance (boasting)
- Not from God (inconsistent w/ faith)
- Earthly, *unredeemed*, demonic
- Disorder and every evil thing

Godly Wisdom

- Good behavior & works, meekness
- From God (consistent w/ faith)
- Pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, mercy, good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy, **peace**

Therefore...

- If godly wisdom brings peace, and if we don't have peace, then...
- If loving our neighbor means *selflessness*, and if we have jealousy and *selfishness*, then...



Faith and Pleasures
James 4:1-12

James 4:1-12

- Test #4: What do you do with earthly pleasures?
 - Are these to be pursued?
 - Where do you look for fulfillment?
 - What if there is no fulfillment?

James 4:1-12

1. The Source (1)
2. The Situation (2-3)
3. The Scolding (4-5)
4. The Solution (6-12)

The Source

- Quarrels and conflicts – *wars and battles* (i.e. - *overall hostility as well as individual skirmishes*)
- Among you – believers, those in the church (3:1, 13)

The Source

- Pleasures - *hedone* - enjoyment from fulfillment of sensual, physical desire
 - Luke 8:14 (soils); Titus 3:1-11
 - Self-gratification vs. God's will (1:11-25)

The Source

- Wage war in your members
 - Earthly pleasures battle for control of your body
 - 1 Pet. 2:11; Rom. 7:14-8:17; 12:1-2
 - Eph. 4:17-24

The Source

- We want!
 - Comes from inside of us
 - Can't blame people, circumstances, God, Satan, the world, stress, etc.
 - Out of the heart – Matt. 15:15-20

Dealing with *Wants*

1. What are you willing to do to get what you want?
2. What do you do if you don't get what you want?

The Situation

- You lust (1:14)
- Do not have
- Commit murder
 - Matt. 5:21-22
 - James 3:9

- You envy (3:14)
- Cannot obtain
- Fight / quarrel

The Situation

1. Did you ask?

–Matt. 7:7-11

2. Did you ask with wrong motives?

–God doesn't want spoiled brats

3. Use earthly wisdom? (3:14-16)

The Scolding

- You adulteresses!
 - OT: idolatry = spiritual adultery
(Jer. 3; Ezek. 16; Ezek. 23; Hosea)
 - NT: Matt. 12:38-40; 16:1-4; Mark 8:34-38; Rev. 2:22

The Scolding

- You adulteresses!
 - Go outside of a covenant relationship to satisfy a desire
 - Earthly wisdom: fight for your way/
rights/desires apart from God

Friendship With The World

- Friendship – *phileo* – *love; affection* (common goals/interests)
 - John 15:12-15
 - Abraham was God's friend (2:23)
 - Acted according to faith (2:22)

Friendship With The World

- The world – egocentric system under Satan; unredeemed man; **anti-God**
 - 1:27; Rom. 1:18f; John 15:18-19
 - *Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God* (2 Tim. 3:4)

Friendship With The World

- Looking to the world system rather than God to satisfy your pleasures
- Hostility toward God!
- Can't have both (*double-souled* - 8)
 - Friends & Enemies: Choose wisely

Understanding Verse 5

- Most difficult verse in James
- One of the more difficult in NT
- No punctuation in the original
- Is it a quote? Paraphrase? Summary?

Understanding Verse 5

- Seems best to separate the clauses
 - 5a refers to 4: the OT warns we can't love both God & the world
 - 5b is new information from James

Understanding Verse 5

- But what does 5b mean?
 - *With jealousy desires the spirit which he caused to dwell in us*
 - What's the Subject? Object?
 - What's *the Point*?

Understanding Verse 5

1. God yearns for the human spirit
2. God yearns for the Holy Spirit
3. Human spirit longs for pleasures
4. The Holy Spirit longs for our undivided devotion

Understanding Verse 5

- The Holy Spirit longs for our undivided devotion
 - Gal. 5:16-17; Rom. 7:21-25

So What?

- Do I have any quarrels or conflicts with anyone?
 - Am I seeking my own pleasure?
 - Do I make it sound pious?
 - How can I love the other person?

So What?

- Is there anything in me that leans toward friendship with the world?
 - Am I willing to sin to get what I want?
 - Do I sin if I don't get what it want?