Date: November 8, 2026 **Pastor: Asa Hart**

Title: "Do You Love Me More Than These?"

Series: James **Text: James 4:1-12**

Main point: *Our union shapes our passions.*

I. Do you truly believe **Jesus**? vv. 1-5 *(see also Gen. 4:1-16; Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 8:1-6; 28:1-68; 32:11, 19-22; Ps. 50:7-23; Is. 1:10-20; Jer. 2:12-13; Matt. 5-7)*

II. Submit to the **Humble King**, vs. 6-10 *(see also 1 Sam. 2:1-10; Prov. 3:34; Is. 57:15; Lam. 3:55-57; Hos. 2:1-13; Lk. 1:48-52; John 9; 2 Cor. 11:3; Phil. 2:1-11)*

III. Embrace His **Royal Law**, vv. 11-12 *(see also Gen. 3:1-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:26-27; Matt. 5:17; Mk. 12:28-34; Lk. 16:14-17; Jn. 13:34-35; 14:15; 15:14; 1 Pet. 4:8)*

Questions for Reflection

1. Read James 4:1-12. What themes have we seen throughout James that reappear here? How do James' questions here reflect Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:17-48? Does Jesus teach the nullifying of the Law? How does Jesus apply the Law? How then is this compatible with the Gospel of Grace? Why do you think Christians are likely to quote James to someone who sins against them, and Romans 4 when they sin against God? Do you see this pattern in your own life? How does believing Jesus' teaching help us in this inconsistency?

2. If Jesus "fulfills the Law" (Matt. 5:17) or, as John says, the "Word made flesh" (John 1:14) what does that mean for our relationship to the Law? Can we embrace the Christ and still embrace sin against God? Does the Christian still sin (see 1 John 1:9-10)? What is the Christian's response to sin that James shows us in James 4:6-10? Why does James begin by speaking of God's good and gracious character before he speaks of our repentance? How is that helpful for us when our sin is brought to light?

3. Read John 15:1-17. How does our union with Christ shape our passions? How does James' writing 4:1-6 serve to remind us of that union? How is our union with Christ like marriage? How might our base passions – or the "wisdom from below" – obscure or oppose our union with Christ? How do we live in light of our union with Christ? How do we encourage one another in this?

4. Christ is speaking so that you might hear and in hearing you might turn to him, and in turning to him, he might heal you. What do you need to bring before him today?

NEXT WEEK: James 4:13-17, Andy McClellan

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