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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## The War Inside

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Bob Bradley

I have one thought on my mind tonight, that I have had there for a while. We are going to read several verses, but we are not going to talk very long tonight.

Turn to James 4. I want to encourage you to read the book of James. The book of James is about growing up and maturing in your relationship with the God of heaven.

James is writing, if you read chapter 1, to the twelve tribes of people, the Jewish people that had been scattered everywhere. They had been scattered all over the known world at that time because of the persecution that had happened. We know that James is writing unto them. He is writing unto people who were going through trials and tribulations and problems. Some of the problems were very severe. It was a horrible time for a lot of these folks. Some of the reason was because they were Christian, some because they had been born again, some because they had faith in Almighty God and they were living a life of faith and they were living a life that was pleasing to God. However, some of the issues they were having they had created themselves because of the way that they were living and the things that were going on in life. A lot of things that was happening and going on, again, they were bringing on themselves because of how that they were living and what was going on.

**James 4:1** From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

**James 4:2** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

**James 4:3** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

**James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

**James 4:5** Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

**James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

**James 4:9** Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.

**James 4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

I said I was going to read the whole thing but we if we have time we may read the rest of it.

James is talking here to people, again, they were having all kinds of issues in life. He says here in the first part of verse 1...

**James 4:1** From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

So, he asked them a question. He knows the answer because he is going to tell them why here in a minute. He wants them to think about something. All the things that was going on in their life, and they were having trouble getting along with each other. They were having trouble getting along. They were having all kinds of issues. They were having all kinds of problems. It seemed that everything these folks had going on, there were issues with it. James simply asked them a question. Where are they coming from? Where are all the wars and fightings among you? Where are they coming from?

I think this was a good question that James asked these folks. A lot of times, if you read the stories of Jesus, you know when people would ask Him something, do you know what He would do? He would ask them a question. Do you know why? Because that gets people to think about where they are at. Jesus would do that a lot. I think that is a good way to get people to look at things. However, He asked a question. Where are all these wars coming from? Where is all the fighting and all the issues coming from? We know when you read the book of James that these folks had a tremendous problem with their tongue. Their tongues were out of control. They were saying all kinds of things.

I was thinking today. These folks here would get up early of the morning. They would wash their face. They would brush their teeth. They would sharpen their tongues. They would go out and just destroy everybody. That is what was going on in their lives.

He asked them a question. Where are they coming from? Where are these issues coming from? Look what it says here.

**James 4:1** From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Do you know what he is saying? Guys, you need to think about what is causing and what is the source of all the issues that is going on with you. He says you need to understand where they are coming from. One thing we always want to do as humans, is we always want to put the blame on somebody else. If we are having issues, if we are having problems; it is always someone else's fault in our own mind. Do you know what James wants them to understand? The reason that they were having issues with other people is because they had issues in here. The issues that they have were coming forth and being born out of the issues they had in their own heart. It is going to go on there in a minute and we are going to talk about the real issues was that not only were they having issues with other people, but they were having issues with Almighty God.

I'm saying all of that to say this tonight. The problems that we are going to have in life, the problems that are going to come in life—like these folks here. They were fighting and warring. They were after one another and slashing one another with their tongues and all of that but their problem was that they had a heart problem. They had a heart problem. Their problem was that they were not right with God. They could not get along with anybody else. The reason was that they couldn't get along with themselves. They were living in a world, they were living every day in a world here where they were at war with each other and the reason being they were at war on the inside.

In the early church, when you go back, and not only in the early church but also in the Bible, you will find out that sometimes we cause people, and we cause wars by what we do. amen!

Abraham was a friend of God. Lot, do you know what he did? Lot caused a war because of where he went. Because Abraham had to go rescue him. Truth! Abraham lived over here. Lot decided he was going to live in Sodom and because of that he was kidnapped. Abraham got in the war because of how and what Lot did.

Not only that but when you look at Absalom, the first hippy that you will read about in the Bible, Absalom was someone that caused his family a war. He caused David all kinds of issues. David had to fight because of his son Absalom. David did not create the war, but he had to fight because of the war that Absalom created. Truth!

Sometimes we do the same thing. Sometimes we—the disciples, when you look at the problems they caused because they had a big racket one day over who was going to be the greatest. When the kingdom was set up, they wanted to sit one on the right-hand side, James did, and John wanted to sit on the other side. They caused a big issue among the disciples because—it was very selfish in what they were asking.

Get this and don't forget this. Sin gets its source in selfishness. The source of sin—we know it is disobedience—we create so many issues in our life because of selfishness.

Eve, when she sinned, do you know what happened? She was very selfish. She was very covetous. Do you know what? God had already said, "Don't do this. Don't touch this. You leave this tree alone. Satan comes along and says if you want to be like God all you have to do is just eat of this fruit and you will be like God. Do you know what she did? She was very covetous. She was very selfish. Do you know what she did? She goes over and eats of it. Do you know what she causes? A war. She tells her husband and he eats it with his eyes wide open and the rest is history.

When we are covetous people, when we are people that are envious and desire things that we don't need and things we have no right to then we get ourselves in trouble.

James is talking to people that were having all kinds of issues. When you read here, when you read the Bible here in Galatians 5, we know the church at Galatia were having issues. They were having trouble because they were biting and devouring on one another.

Not only that but also, if you look at the church at Philippi; one of the greatest churches in the New Testament, they had issues. They had problems. They had wars going on because two women couldn't get along. These things come from, their source is disobedience. We know that. But we also know that so much of sin gets its source from people who are envious and covetous.

Do you remember the story about Moses? Do you remember the story about Aaron and Miriam? When they came to Moses complaining about his wife. Do you remember them? Do you remember that story? That wasn't about Moses' wife. When you read on down do you know what you will find out? The problem was...they were having issues with the authority of Moses. Moses was the leader. They were to follow Moses. The reason they were complaining about Moses' wife wasn't that they didn't like Moses' wife, but they were complaining because they were selfish, and they were envious of Moses and his authority. Therefore, they created problems. Amen! Do you know what happened to Miriam? Do you remember the story? She got leprosy. God said, "Hey, you guys are way off base. Moses is my man. You need to keep your mouth shut. I'm going to tell you how much Moses is my man. You are going to have leprosy." Bam! She's got leprosy. Serious thing. Don't you think? She caused problems because of being selfish and envious and not knowing what she was talking about, and not knowing what she was doing.

Not only that but also when you read about Paul and Barnabas; they had issues. Do you remember them? They went on the first missionary journey. They went some places. Do you remember a fellow by the name of John Mark? He decided—when they were up the road at Pamphylia, I believe that was where they were at—he decided he was going to go back home. Barnabas was his uncle, if I understand things correctly. They were related. John Mark decided I'm going home, so he goes home. Paul and Barnabas go on their journey. They come back home. Some time later they were going to go on another journey, Barnabas wants to take John Mark. Paul says, we are not doing that. He abandoned us up the road. I'm not taking him again now. If you read the story, that is the Bible. Do you know what happens? The Bible says that the contention was so sharp between Paul and Barnabas that Paul took Silas. Barnabas took John Mark and they went their ways. That is the Bible. Isn't it?

Again, a lot of these things happen because and a lot of wars happen with other people because we have a war going on in here. We are not right with God. We are not happy because we are at war with our self. When you go on down through here and read, do you know what you will find out here? We have a war going on in our hearts. There is a war going on inside of us. We have all kinds of wars going on in our lives. The thing is this. The reason that those things...the reason we have wars with people, and the reason we have a war going on in here is because we are not where we need to be with God.

Get this and write it down. You can believe this or not believe this. It doesn't matter. People who are dedicated, consecrated, living in the will of God; do you know what they

are not going to do? They are not going to be troublemakers. Amen! They are going to be people who loves the God of heaven. They are going to be people that are not going to be creating issues with other people. They are going to be people that can get along with self and because they have a deep relationship with the God of heaven, it is no problem for people to get along, not only with themselves, but also with other people. Does that mean everybody is going to treat you right? It absolutely does not. Does that mean that you are never going to lose your temper? Does that mean that you are always going to do what is right in every situation? It doesn't mean that at all. However, you won't be habitually out of line with everybody you see. You won't be habitually causing all kinds of issues everywhere we go.

Keep this in mind. These people were having problems with one another. They were having problems with one another because they were having problems on the inside. They were fighting and wars going on in their hearts and their lives. Things were just a mess in their lives. They were people that complained about what they did not have. They were people—they were not thankful for what they had. They complained about what they did not have. We should never do that as Christian people. Don't be complaining about what you don't have. If you will be thankful for what you do have, your life may change a little bit. Amen!

Here are the issues. Here is the problem. If you want to fix having a war on the inside, and having all kinds of wars with people, the problem is you must fix, you must fix the relationship you have with God. If you fix that then everything else will be fixed.

The Bible says here—there are three words here that I want to talk about.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

There are three words here I want to talk about. Submit, draw near, and cleanse your hands. There are three things there that if we will do it will stop the war that is going on in our life. If we will submit ourselves to God, if we will submit ourselves to God things will change.

The word *submit*—get this. If you have ever been in the military, you will know this. The word *submit* means we get in our proper place.

When I worked and had people working for me a lot, you always had people that if you had them on a machine or doing something that they may have been very good at, they always wanted to not only do this, but they wanted to get over there and gom/mess around in somebody else's business. When we submit to God, do you know what God is saying? He is saying get where you need to be. Understand who you are. Understand who I am. Get in your proper place. One of the big issues, one of the big things we have in life; we not only think we know what we are doing in our own life, but we think we can tell everybody else what they need in their life. Do you know what we

need to do? If we are going to stop the war, if the raging in our lives is out of control, all the stuff that is going on, on the inside of us—I'm going to tell you this too—we hear a lot today about fake news. There are a lot of fake people around. We can make a pretty good show for an hour and a half sometimes at church. If war is raging and things are out of control, then we must submit ourselves to God. We absolutely must submit ourselves to God. We must cease, we must resist, we must surrender, we must yield, it must be an unconditional yielding and surrendering to God. The only complete way we are going to have victory is when we submit ourselves and surrender ourselves totally and unconditionally to Almighty God.

If we are not willing to do that then the wars are going to go on. You are going to go to bed at night with a war going on inside, turmoil on the inside, raging on the inside. You are going to get up and go to work with a raging going on. Everybody you see at work you are not going to like what they are doing. You are not going to get along with anybody because you have never surrendered unto God, completely and totally surrendered unto God. You need to submit yourself unto Him and you need to draw near.

You need to draw near. Do you know how we do that? By confessing our sins. You say, preacher do Christian people need to confess? Every day, we do. amen! Every day we need to confess our sins because we are not perfect people. At least, I'm not. You may think you are, but I've got news for you; you are not. We need to confess our sins every day. We need to clean ourselves up every day. Amen! If we do that every day, the Bible says here that if we draw nigh unto God, He will draw nigh unto us. when I get close to God, when I have a desire that I want to get close to God and I clean my life up, do you know what God will do? He will get close to me. Amen! Don't think God is going to get close to you. Don't think God is going to answer your prayer. Don't think God is going to do some great thing for you if you are living out here in sin. If the war is raging in your life, and the war is raging with your family, and with your children, and with your grandchildren and people you work with; if that war is going on then it is time to stop it.

We submit to God. We surrender to God. We repent of our sins. We clean our lives up. Ask God to forgive us. Do you know what He will do? He will forgive us. Do you know how I know that? I have asked Him a million and ten times to forgive me and cleanse me. He will do that, every day. I've said this here many times. If I pray one time a day, or fifty times a day, I ask Him every prayer, "Lord, please forgive me of my sins. If there is any malice, any strife, any envy, any pride, any wicked or false way, any secret sins or iniquities, any way I have wronged thee or anyone in any way, Lord, please forgive me." Do you know what He does? He forgives me.

**James 4:9** Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.

**James 4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

The word *humble* is a word here that means the exact opposite of pride. If you read the book of Proverbs, you will find out in chapter 6, God hates pride. God hates it. Do you know what? If we will humble ourselves and understand that we can't do this on our own, and we can't make it on our own and that we need God's help and we need God's forgiveness. The raging going on in our lives and our families; if we want that to cease then we must humble ourselves before God. That means brought low or bring ourselves low. If we will do that, if we will ask God to cleanse us and if we will submit ourselves unto Him, do you know what He will do? He will straighten up our lives. He will make something out of us. He will change your life completely. He will change your life completely into somebody and something that He can get glory from.

He loves you. I don't know where you are at in life. I don't know where you are standing in life. I don't have a clue. I do one thing. God is the God that calms the storms. He is the God that can stop the raging. He is the God that can do all of that. If you are here this evening and you need to come and pray, then come and pray. If you are listening to me, wherever you are at tonight; I don't know where you are at, but if you need to pray, ask God to forgive you. Ask God to cleanse you. Do you know what He will do? He will do that tonight. He will cleanse you tonight. He will forgive you tonight. Come as God is speaking.

Come and pray—