

**The Seduction of the World and the Jealousy of God**  
**James 4:1-10**

I. Introduction

- A. Cinderella – a biblical metaphor
  - 1. What does every girl hope for in marriage?
    - a. Answer: An ever-faithful, all-satisfying husband.

II. Proposition

- A. The Lord our God promises to be the ever-faithful, all-satisfying husband to all who humbly submit to His leadership and continue in covenant faithfulness to Him.

III. Exposition

**A. The Bible pictures our relationship with God as a covenant marriage with God as the ever-faithful, all-satisfying Husband (James 4:5).**

- 1. When James says, “Scripture says,” he is providing a Scripture summary, not a specific passage:
  - a. Marriage metaphor: Ezekiel 16
  - b. The people were to be faithful only to God: Exodus 20:1-3
- 2. The basis of this covenant marriage is God’s unconditional electing grace.
  - a. Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Hosea 1:2-7; 2:14-23; 1 Peter 2:9-10

**B. Sin, then, is turning away from God to find satisfaction in something else (James 4:1-3).**

- 1. What is the root cause of sin in our lives?
  - a. Frustrated, unsatisfied desires (James 4:1-2a).
    - 1). We sin when we allow ourselves to be lured by our frustrated, selfish desires to find satisfaction in something or someone other than God!
      - a). ILLUS: James 1:14-15
    - b. In other words: The root cause of sin is the failure to be satisfied in the all-satisfying God!
      - 1). Sin is turning away from God and seeking satisfaction somewhere else!
        - a). ILLUS: Piper, *Future Grace*, 87
  - b. Why are our desires frustrated and unsatisfied?
    - a. Because we do not ask the one who promises to satisfy (James 4:2e-f).
      - 1). This is ultimately unbelief (pride).
    - b. Because when we do ask the one who promises to satisfy, we are asking with impure motives (James 4:3).
      - 1). ILLUS: This is like asking your husband to buy you a new dress and jewelry so that you might be able to go on a date with your lover.
      - 2). Oh, that sin would be that odious to all of us!!!!!!
- 3. Are you asking God to meet your frustrated, unsatisfied desires, but He doesn’t seem to be answering?
  - a. What are you praying for?
  - b. Why are you praying for that?
    - 1). Could it be that God is not granting you that because of the impurity of your motives?
- 4. Do you have frustrated, unsatisfied desires?
  - a. Where are you turning for satisfaction?
- 5. You cannot flirt with the world and say you belong to God (4:4)!

**C. The Lord our God is a jealous husband who does not tolerate unfaithfulness (James 4:4-5).**

- 1. If we seek satisfaction in the world, then we commit spiritual adultery (4:4).
  - a. Beware of the seduction of this world; worldliness is everywhere!
- 2. God in Christ has elected you, regenerated you, caused His Spirit to dwell in you; therefore, He is jealous to be your only lover (4:5):
  - a. The only one who satisfies you.
  - b. The only one who protects and provides for you.
- 3. So much does God hate sin that He crushed His own Son in order to deal with it (Romans 8:32).
  - a. Therefore, don’t you think He will be faithful to you?
  - b. Sin is irrational!

**D. As our ever-faithful, all-satisfying Husband, God promises to receive His unfaithful but repentant bride (James 4:6).**

1. ILLUS: Hosea 1-3
2. His unconditional electing grace leads to assurance!

IV. Conclusion

- A. What does the ever-faithful, all-satisfying God require of us?
  1. Submit yourself to God (4:7a)
    - a. Submission – to humbly and willingly come under His leadership (see Ephesians 5:22-24).
  2. For, He gives grace to the humble (4:6).
    - a. God gives the grace of forgiveness to the one who humbly receives Christ!
      - 1). Unbeliever – come to Him as a spiritual beggar (Matthew 5:3).
        - a). Faith = being satisfied with everything God is for us in Christ (John 6:35).
    - b. God gives persevering grace to those who continue following Him in humility.
      - 1). Believer – continue humbling yourself, submitting yourself to Him!
    - c. God gives sanctifying grace to fight sin to those who humble themselves:
      - 1). 2 Peter 1:3-4
      - 2). In other words, the fight of sin is the fight of faith!
        - a). We must humble ourselves and believe God when He promises to be the ever-faithful, all-satisfying Husband for His people.
- B. Listen to some of the promises that James points out:
  1. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7)!
    - a. 1 John
  3. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you (James 4:8)!
    - a. Do you ever feel distant from God?
  4. Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will exalt you (James 4:10)!
    - a. Humble yourself:
      - 1). In repentance (James 4:8-9)
        - a). We must take sin seriously!
        - b). Imagine what marital adultery would do in our home.
    - b. He will exalt you!
      - 1). The Lord God promises forgiveness and restoration to His repentant people!
        - a). Ephesians 5:25ff.
        - b). Revelation 19:6-8

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