

SCRIPTURE: James 4:11-5:6

SERIES: James

TITLE: Spiritual Pride

BIG IDEA: James describes the way pride infiltrates our desires and manifests in different ways in our lives.

TEXT

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

13 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”— 14 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. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.
4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

v.11-12

1. PRIDE ASSUMES THE ROLE OF JUDGE

- What is the difference in noticing someone's behavior vs. assuming the role of judge over them?
- Consider the statement: Just because something is true doesn't mean it needs repeating.
    - What questions should we ask ourselves before we speak about someone?
- How can gossip disguise itself as something respectable or spiritual?
    - How do we decipher between genuine concern and sinful speech?
- What is significant about the fact that God alone is the only lawgiver and judge?

Application Question: What do my words say about the role I'm assuming?

v.13-17

2. PRIDE ASSUMES THE THRONE

- If planning isn't wrong, what makes the plans in this passage wrong?
- What is the difference in planning and attempting to control?
- Where are we most tempted to demand control in our lives?
- Do you pray more for God's will to be done, or for your plans to be done?

Application Question: Do I live as if the throne belongs to God and not to me?

v.5:1-6

3. PRIDE ASSUMES THE PLACE OF PROVIDER

- What about money in particular gives us the illusion that we don't need God?
- What is the difference in pursuing wealth for right and wrong reasons?
- How do we guard ourselves from trusting in wealth instead of trusting in the Lord?
- Why is our relationship to money and wealth such a good gauge for where our trust is placed?

Application Question: Who is my provider?