

The Heart Of The Matter

Series: Following Jesus: Sharing Hope With Others

James 4:1-3 (0908)

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John 2:23-24 NLT ²³Because of the miraculous signs he did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many people were convinced that he was indeed the Messiah. ²⁴But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew what people were really like. ²⁵No one needed to tell him about human nature.

Matthew 15:19 ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

I. The progression of an idol

a. Is this discussion really relevant to my life?

b. The downward spiral

James 4:1 ¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

James 4:2a ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.

Ken Sande—Inflicting pain on others is one of the surest signs that an idol is ruling our hearts. When we catch ourselves punishing others in any way, whether deliberately and overtly or unconsciously and subtly, it is a warning that something other than God is ruling our hearts.

c. Penetrating questions that expose the idols of my heart

Lamentations 3:40 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

II. The cure for an idolatrous heart

a. The power of repentance and forgiveness

James 4:2b-3 You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Acts 3:19 ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

b. Finding what you have always wanted

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.