

Never Thirst Again



Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

James 4:1-10



Big Idea

Realizing our inadequacies and the unrelenting love God has for us, we subordinate our desires to the greater good God gives! Giving up our desires means we are looking to something far better!

Desires are not in themselves bad, in fact they are essential to life. However, inordinate longing for anything is desire out of bounds, which have a tendency to draw us away from God - James 1:14-15

I want what I want, when I want it (vs 1-4)

Unrestrained desire is simply about itself and it doesn't consider what is better or perhaps best. The selfishness of unrestrained desire means I would take what I want if I could. By not entrusting ourselves to God, we seek to fulfill our desires, leading to our rejection of God. We throw our allegiance with the world and make an enemy of God.

The Wine that Never Runs Out.. Grace Abounds (vs 5-6)

In spite of our near constant rejection of Him, God responds with grace! He runs after us and gives us the greatest gift - himself. The grace God offers is the grace of humility - the grace of those who would humbly submit themselves to God. It is the desperadoes that grasp the truth that making themselves the ultimate reference point per their desires is a horrible idea...And so we turn to the wine that never runs out - Jesus!

Never Thirst Again (vs 7-10)

1. **Submit to God** - the discipline of abandoning yourself to God. There can be no submission without knowing the One you are submitting to. This necessitates meditating on him!
 - a. Resist the enemy - The more you know him, the more you have a place to stand and not be overrun by unfulfilled desires.
2. **Draw Near unto God** - the discipline of being an apprentice of God. We are serious about pursuing God
 - a. We pursue God by having an intimate relationship with him - getting more into the Word
 - b. We pursue God through community
3. **Repentance** - the discipline of reflection, and confession. We are brokenhearted by our sins and we make it a habit to repent. All of life is repentance!
4. Humble yourself before the Lord.

Jesus is essentially calling us to make an exchange – to give that which we cannot keep (unfulfilled desires) to gain what we can never lose (himself).



Homework

- Have a plan to consistently meditate on the Word of God - use a passage not one or two verses.

- Carry out a consistent self-reflective exercise on your day. This could be done at the end of the day, where you review your day with God and notice where you might have missed him or responded to him. Note the pull of desire in all of this
- Write your thoughts in a journal. What are you noticing over time in your review? More of the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the flesh?
- Talk about it with your spouse or trusted friends
- You could do this practice over a period of time (a day, week, month, year, decades, etc.) or seasons of your life