

SUBMISSION TO GOD

LESSON 7: JAMES ON BUSINESS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

End of Year bonus time is here! As a manager in your company you have been given the responsibility of determining the bonuses that you and your team are to receive. The president of the company has given you an overall bonus amount to be distributed to you and your team at your discretion based on a number of performance factors both subjective and objective. There are a number of employees on your team who have been under-performing and you mark them down on the bonus they receive.

There are some stars that you mark up as well and they receive more bonus. As the boss you have had a tough year and mistakes were made by your team. More than once you had to spend some long hours and very tough meetings with clients to correct these mistakes. To compound your dilemma you have friends in other companies doing the same job and they seem to get all the perks and seem to have bonus money to spend on all the toys. This whole bonus process is very hard as you have left over money in the bonus pool because of the poor performance of some of the employees. Your inclination is to assign this left-over bonus money to yourself and increase your bonus as you feel that you earned it but you could divvy it up amongst your star performers. What should you do?

- Q. What battles would you have going on in your mind as you make this decision?
- Q. What factors should you be considering?
- Q. How do you keep your feelings out of the decision and remain objective?
- Q. What are some ways that you could gain the wisdom of God in this decision?

JAMES 4:1-12

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- Q. What do you want to accomplish in your professional career? Why?
- Q. Is it wrong to have desires?
- Q. How do you know if you have worldly desires or Godly desires?
- Q. Why does God appear to not answer our prayers many times?
- Q. When will God always answer our prayers?

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

*“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”*

- Q.** What is your biggest temptation at work?
- Q.** In what ways are you a friend of the world?
- Q.** How does friendship with the world equate to adultery?
- Q.** Why is humility directly connected with submission?

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- Q.** Satan is the prince of this world. What is our part in defeating him? What is God's part?
- Q.** Submit, Resist, come near, wash, purify, grieve, change, humble. What do all of these actions require from us?
- Q.** When you reflect on this passage how does it make you feel?
- Q.** Why is this so counter-intuitive that God will lift us up? How do we typically need to be lifted up?

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

- Q.** Why do we slander others at work? What is our motive?
- Q.** Why is the Law mentioned in the context of judging?
- Q.** Why is judging others sinful?
- Q.** What are the consequences of Judging others in the office that you have experienced?
- Q.** What does judging and slandering have to do with submission before God?