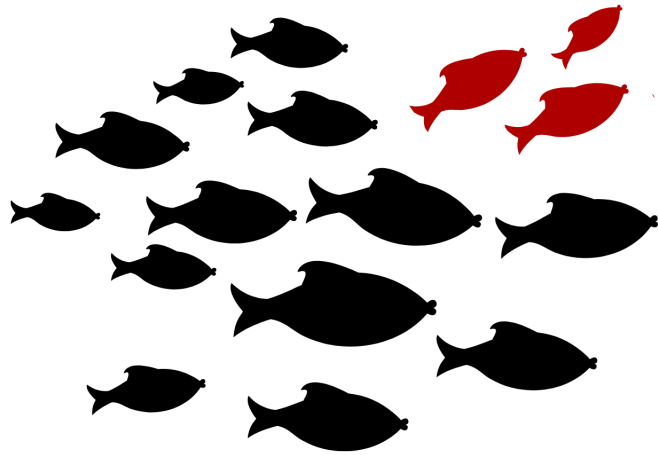


JAMES

*WISDOM FOR DISSIDENTS**



JAMES 4:13-16

JUNE 11, 2023

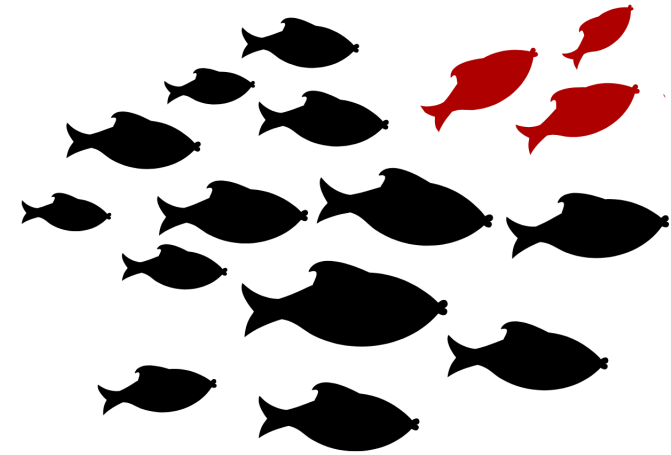
Spring/Summer 2023

The book of James is one of the earliest writings of the New Testament and given as wisdom to followers of Jesus who were facing severe trials. However, this wisdom does not align with the prevailing wisdom of any age. The Gospel of Jesus creates loving dissidents – those who dissent from the dominant way of being and, instead, live in step with the Kingdom of God. This dissent may be subtle or strong, but it is always a result of following Jesus in a culture committed to following many other things. Further, this type of wisdom pictures an alternate way of life for a world that desperately needs it. James is wisdom for such a life.

* This title is inspired by Pastor Jeff Meyers' commentary with the same subtitle.

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Lord of Tomorrow

June 11, 2023 | James 4:13-17 | Pastor Roger Williams

Jesus frees us from the compulsion to control the future.

James 4

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

Proverbs 18 ²¹Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Matthew 6 ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Philippians 4 ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

$$\text{Anxiety} = \frac{\text{perceived probability of danger} \times \text{perceived cost/awfulness}}{\text{perceived ability to cope with danger} \times \text{perceived rescue factors}}$$

(Salkovskis & Forrester, 2002)

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