

BRUH: DRAW CLOSE

Too many of us now tend to worship self-indulgence and consumption. Human identity is no longer defined by what one does, but by what one owns. – President Jimmy Carter

Main Scripture: James 4:1-10

Big Idea: When I am devoted to myself, I limit how close I can draw to God.

Big Question: What can we do to draw closer to God?

James 4:1-3 ¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

1. Check my motives

This expression, "scheme and kill," is to be taken in the sense of having a murderous disposition, or fostering a brutal and murderous spirit. It is not exactly that they killed or committed murder; it simply means that the spirit of murder is at the bottom of our jealous desires. --- Albert Barnes

"We must shift America from a needs to a desires culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old have been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality. Man's desire must overshadow his needs."

At some point you have to draw a line in the sand and say, "I'm good. I don't need another pair of shoes, another decorator item for my bookshelf, another toy for my garage, another day at the spa. I have enough. What I really need is time to enjoy what I already have with God." --- John Mark Comer (The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry)

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer

Social Dilemma on Netflix

"Minimalism" & "Less is Now" on Netflix.

James 4:4-6 ⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Opposes = To range in battle against, to set oneself against. To square off.

2. Change my friendships

1 John 5:21 ²¹ Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

2

James 4:7-10 ⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

3. Choose to be humble