

## FAMILY MATTERS #13 - OBSTACLES OF THE FAMILY

### JAMES 4:1-12

God created marriage and the family for our good. The flesh, the world, and the devil puts many obstacles in our path.

#### I. THE OBSTACLE OF PRIDE

##### A. Selfishness

1. Often called "following your heart" (JER. 17:9)
2. We want to consume God's gifts upon our lusts
3. Ask "amiss" - Marriage/Money/Blessings (vs. 2-4)

##### B. Worldliness

1. Clean hands / Clean heart / Single Mind (vs. 8)
2. Friend to world or close to God? (vs. 4)
3. We must make our choice clear 2 COR. 6:17

##### C. Pridefulness

1. This is the devil's favorite sin (ISA. 14:13-15)
2. James 4: Ask, humble, submit, draw nigh, weep
3. The most dangerous sentence: "I deserve..."
  - a. Affairs, pornography, adultery
  - b. Divorce or emotional distance
4. When we believe our "rights" are violated
  - a. Anger, rage, and bitterness
  - b. Sharpness, and cold-hearted language
5. We "deserve" Hell but Jesus saves!

##### D. Unforgiveness

1. As important as our daily bread MATT. 6:12-15
2. Further from God means further from family

##### E. Prayerlessness

1. When we believe "we have it all under control"
2. Without humbling self for pray (2 CHRON. 7:14)

##### F. Praiselessness

1. When we believe "we are able by ourselves"
2. Lack of praise makes the heart dark (ROM. 1:21)

#### II. THE OBSTACLE OF PASSIVITY

##### A. Prudence looks ahead and seeks to prevent PROV. 22:3

1. Two times (again in Prov. 27:12)
2. Don't let circumstances just "happen" to you

##### B. Abraham and Sarai (and Hagar) GEN. 16:1-5

1. God is "absent" from Abram's life for years
2. They did not wait on God's promise
3. He let his wife take the lead in the home

##### C. No one else can seek God for you or lead your family

##### D. The hearts of the children must be won PROV. 23:26

JER. 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

ISA. 14:13 - "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

2 CHRON. 7:14 - "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

ROM. 1:21 - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."