

## Faith that Works

April 22, 2007

“Choosing Friends Wisely”

James 4:4-6

### Introduction:

Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters,” and in today’s passage we learn the importance of choosing our friends wisely.

### Interpretation:

### Application:

## Going Deeper

1. How are we to reconcile James' condemnation of cultivating a friendship with the world, with Jesus' proclamation that God loves the world? (James 4:4-6, John 3:16)
2. Considering the story of Demas, what role did a love of the world play in the decision of friends and family, whom you might know personally, that walked away from their relationship with the Lord? (Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:10, Philemon 23-24)
3. Considering the story of Helen Dunkeld's faithful service as a missionary in Africa, what can we take from her example and apply to our own lives? (Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18)
4. Considering James' warning that we are either friends with God or friends with the world, ask someone who knows your spiritual life well to describe your relationship with the "world" using the following scale:
  - Strong relationship with the world, and growing even stronger.
  - Distant relationship with the world, but growing stronger.
  - Strong relationship with the world, but growing more distant.
  - Distant relationship with the world, and growing even more passionate about Jesus.
5. In what ways are you currently connected to and/or cultivating a friendship with the world? What practical steps will you take to create a greater connection with Jesus? (2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1, Colossians 3:1-14, 1 John 2:15-16)

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