

A blurred background image of a restaurant table. In the center, there is a silver tray with several stacks of cash. The stacks vary in height, with the tallest stack in the middle. The background shows a dimly lit restaurant with wooden chairs and tables, creating a warm, slightly out-of-focus atmosphere.

“I Want It Now!”

James 4:1-10

“I Want It Now!”

- Reasons why this world is obsessed with gain:
 - Materialism
 - Covetousness
 - Selfishness
- James knew:
 - That conflicts and fights come from our own selfish desires.
 - That many vain prayers are uttered because of selfishness.
 - That friendship with the world facilitates selfishness.
 - That in order to combat selfishness we need humility and godliness.

“I Want It Now!”

- Our world is consumed by consumerism
- Society satisfies itself with selfishness
- People who want what is theirs, they want what is yours, they want it any way they can get it, and they want it now.

“I Want It Now!”

- “Selfishness is one of the more common faces of pride. 'How everything affects me' is the center of all that matters - self-conceit, self-pity, worldly self-fulfillment, self-gratification and self-seeking” (Ezra Benson)
- “Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live; it is asking others to live as one wishes to live” (Oscar Wilde).

“I Want It Now!”

- The major sins of our society, abortion, euthanasia, fornication, adultery, murder, theft, etc. have their origins in selfishness.
- “Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness” (Alveda King).

“Give Us A King”

- Materialism and worldliness
 - 1Sam. 8:4-20



“Give Us A King”

- Their desire wasn't merely to rid themselves of evil judges, but to be like the world around them. They failed to realize that they already had a Great King, dissatisfied with what God gave them
 - Hosea 13:10-11 - “I will be your King; Where is any other, That he may save you in all your cities? And your judges to whom you said, 'Give me a king and princes'? 11 I gave you a king in My anger, And took him away in My wrath.”

“Give Us A King”

- Materialism and worldliness today
- “The world says: ‘You have needs -- satisfy them. You have as much right as the rich and the mighty. Don't hesitate to satisfy your needs; indeed, expand your needs and demand more.’ This is the worldly doctrine of today. And they believe that this is freedom. The result for the rich is isolation and suicide, for the poor, envy and murder” (Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*).

“Give Us A King”

- The Bible regarding materialism
 - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

“Give Us A King”

- Rom. 12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- Col. 3:1-2 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”
- Our home is in heaven, not in this world.

“Give Me Your Vineyard”

- Covetousness
 - 1Kings 21:1-6
- Covetousness today
 - Do we really intend to define ourselves in terms of our neighbor's possessions?

“Give Me Your Vineyard”

- The Bible regarding covetousness:
 - Luke 12:15 - “And He said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses”
 - Heb. 13:5 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - 1Tim. 6:6-8 - “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

“Give Me Your Vineyard”

- Marshall Keeble: “It's all gonna be burned up.”
- “You can't take it with you; and, if you could, it would burn up the first night.”
- Our lives are not about the physical quantity of our possessions, but about the spiritual quality of our souls.

“Give Me My Portion”

- Selfishness

- Luke 15:12-13 - “And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.”

“Give Me My Portion”

- Selfishness today
- “Self-absorption in all its forms kills empathy, let alone compassion. When we focus on ourselves, our world contracts as our problems and preoccupations loom large. But when we focus on others, our world expands. Our own problems drift to the periphery of the mind and so seem smaller, and we increase our capacity for connection - or compassionate action”
(Daniel Goleman, Social Intelligence)

“Give Me My Portion”

- Has God ever instructed us to seek “me first”?
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 - Matt. 22:37-40 - “Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

“Give Me My Portion”

- Where does the self enter?
 - Phil. 2:3-4 - “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

“Give Me My Portion”

- Seeking self makes us lonely. Seeking others makes us fulfilled. Seeking God makes us faithful.
- “Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

“I Want It Now!”

- John 4:13-15 - “Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. 15 The woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

“I Want It Now!”

- It is not selfishness, or greed, or covetousness to seek salvation for one’s self, because...
 - Salvation requires sacrifice in the present and gives satisfaction in the hereafter
 - It is the pursuit of long term worthy goals, rather than short term self-appeasement
 - It is about humbling the self and glorifying God, not the other way around