

USURPING

JAMES 4:11, 12 (PART II)

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Speech that slanders (runs down another person) is wrong speech whether it is true or false. R. Kent Hughes, *James: Faith That Works*, p. 194. To usurp is to wrongfully take power, place, or authority without right. (Luke 10:29-37, fn 10:27-37)

THE 'ROYALS'—The Ten Commandments are summarized by the “Royal Law.” When you run down or speak against your neighbor, you are usurping it. In doing so, you show God that you are not going to be obedient to it and it is not needed. When you do this, you not only judge your neighbor, but you also judge the “Royal Law.” (James 4:11, fn 4:11, 12, James 2:8, fn 2:8, Matthew 7:1-5, fn 7:1-5, Matthew 22:35-40, fn 22:35-40, fn 22:37-40, Romans 13:8-10, fn 13:10) *How could you naturally keep the “Royal Law”?*

THE JUDGE—If you run down and judge your neighbor, you are really defaming him. In doing so, you are positioning yourself above your judge, the Lord Jesus, to whom all believers must give an account. “Only He, because He knows the hearts and motives of all men...can perfectly apply the law He has given.” John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James*, p. 225. (James 4:12, Psalms 51:1-4, fn 51:4, II Corinthians 5:9, 10, fn 5:9, 10, Matthew 16:27, fn 16:27, Romans 14:4, 10-13, fn 14:10-12, James 5:9, fn 5:9) *What are the reasons why you personally should not judge your neighbor?*

THE HOLY SPIRIT—In your flesh, or self-will, you cannot fulfill the “Royal Law.” To run down or speak against your neighbor is to take the place of the Holy Spirit in you. But, by faith, allowing the Holy Spirit to control you, God gives you grace to love your neighbor and fulfill the “Royal Law.” (Galatians 5:13-26, fn 5:14, 15, fn 5:16-18, fn 5:17, fn 5:19-21, fn 5:24, Galatians 2:20, II Timothy 2:1, fn 2:1) *Why is it vital for you, by faith, to ask the Holy Spirit to fill and control you? How will you do this?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

