

James 4:13-17

Don't Boast About Tomorrow

Welcome back and here we go!

We have one more lesson in James after this week. To me, it is pretty amazing how much we have covered in our years here at Face of Grace. Often, we find ourselves looking forward. So today we will address the idea of planning for the future! Is it wrong to plan? What did Jesus say about planning ahead?

James 4:13-17

- 1) What is wrong with planning for the future according to James?

You know if you look at it closely, it is not really condemning planning, rather it is calling out the spirit or mental attitude of pride. So, if we understand it in the concept of pride, we can go all the way back to **James 3**, the message on the Tongue!

James 3:1-18

James' message is remarkably consistent and can be summed up in our lesson today.

- 2) How is the tongue, pride and boasting tied together?

I would dare say Heavenly versus Worldly wisdom will determine our mental attitude (pride & humility) which affects our tongue (blessing versus cursing versus boasting).

- 3) What is wrong with boasting about the future?

Inherently, this puts you/me in the place of God. We are telling God what we are going to do as though He needs our instruction.

"Joke" - You wanna make God laugh? Tell Him YOUR plans.

James 4:1-10

Humility is the answer to most all situations.

James 4:12-17

Verse 15 gives us the instruction right....

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:19-24

4) How does James' statements and Jesus' statements match here?

Jesus is saying that all you need will be provided, that we do not need to worry, but...

5) Is Jesus saying you don't need to plan?

Luke 14:25-30

Obviously, this is talking about the Spiritual reality of serving God, that in order to serve Him, we must be prepared to shed some behaviors, and gain a new mental attitude. But, Jesus gives a real life example of planning. He is saying, of course you must plan ahead; it would be foolish not to!

Specifically, for your walk with Christ, here on this earth,

6) What is the difference between the two - bragging versus planning ahead?

We are planning on doing a parking lot sale in April. Two years in a row we have had to postpone it or change the date due to COVID or illness. Plans can change. Can you? If we have too much pride, any change of plans can be frustrating!

Most of my days are preplanned, yet often the plans change.

Planning can be a way of assuaging fear. Fear of the unknown is easier if there is a plan moving forward!

Do you have goals? Do they further or strengthen your relationship with God?

Do they take care of you?

Let's pray.