

If the Lord wills

[Jas 4:13-17 ESV] 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

I. Intro

A. Mindset matters

1. When you are praying for rain during a drought, bring an umbrella
2. When you are struggling financially and seeking God's provision, give generously
3. When you long to see God bring evangelistic relationships to your life, speak to people you do not know.
 - a) Our culture is designed to minimize actual human interaction
 - b) This seems to be more efficient, at times, but really is isolating and unhealthy
 - c) You have to put yourself in a place to develop these relationships.

B. When you look at life with the mindset of accomplishing your goals, you will stay busy and may even be productive

C. But, if you look at life with the mindset of following God's will, you will find peace and power in the process

D. Remember, LORD is not a name, but a title:

1. He is LORD
2. So if you call Him LORD, yield to HIS LORDSHIP

II. Text

A. This is a continuation of Verses 11-12:

1. Don't play God in other peoples life
2. This week, don't play God in your own life

B. Verse 13: making plans must include God.

1. [Mat 6:10 ESV] 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
2. [Mat 6:33-34 ESV] 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

C. Verse 14:

1. This physical life is fleeting
2. Don't waste it on your own agenda, that will lead to frustration

D. Verse 15:

1. We should instead look at life as an opportunity to be a part of God's plan.
2. The adventure of the Christian life is such that we put our trust and direction in the Lord

E. Verse 16

1. Such boasting is EVIL!
2. That sounds harsh, yet true

F. Verse 17

1. Sins of omission are a product of this evil at work in the flesh
2. We must always yield our will to the one who is sovereign and loves us.

III. Point

A. Plan for tomorrow, prepare for eternity

1. 3 score and 10...
 - a) [Psa 90:9-17 ESV] 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. 10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon

gone, and we fly away. 11 Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? 12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. 13 Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. 16 Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

- b) We live a little while on this earth, and that is just a breath of eternity.
 - c) So many people look to the physical world as if it is the only thing that matters, it does matter how you live those years, but eternity awaits.
2. Plan to accomplish much for tomorrow
 3. Be prepared for eternity
 - a) Some of us may need to examine our faith in preparation for eternity
 - b) Don't get caught up in a church culture, and miss the personal relationship
 - c) Don't assume you have it all secure in Christ if you have never examined your relationship.
 4. I challenge you:
 - a) Have you believed Christ for your salvation, or are you still trying to work your way there?
 - b) Have you followed with believers baptism, as an act of obedience in following Christ's example?
 - c) Are you placing yourself under the teaching of the word, and relationships that build discipleship in you?
- B. The battle of wills
1. When you know the Lord's will, and you refuse to follow it, you are in sin.
 2. When you know the Lord's will, God has spoken to you, pay attention.
 3. When you know the Lord's will, do not ignore it, or be paralyzed in fear...Follow HIM!
 4. When we get this out of balance:
 - a) The family will frustrate you
 - b) The Job will frustrate you
 - c) The Church will frustrate you
 - d) People will frustrate you
 - e) You will not find peace
 5. When you play God, your will is not yielded to Him:
 - a) Set aside your agenda, and seek God's
 - b) You say the right words regarding Christ's LORDSHIP
 - c) But you do not serve with the reality of HIS LORDSHIP
- C. Life of Mission
1. Life on mission is a path through that which is unknown to you, but certain in Christ.
 2. Vacation:
 - a) Some plan every aspect of the vacation down to the minute
 - (1) These folks have as much fun in the planning of the vacation as they do on the vacation
 - (2) These are people that do not like surprises
 - (3) The adventure is not as appealing as the certainty.
 - b) Others decide to head a certain direction and figure it out along the way
 - (1) These people see the vacation as an adventure
 - (2) They are ok with being uncomfortable for a time, yet look forward to the times when everything seems to work out perfectly.
 - c) Most of us plan out our vacations because of the security that brings us peace is found in the well planned time away.

- d) This may be why we struggle with being all-in on mission, mission is a navigation of things that require faith.
- 3. Life on mission will be guided by the God who sent us:
 - a) So we ask, are we serving today as God has called?
 - b) Are we serving in the will of God or the will of self?
 - c) Life on mission is a faith walk, and that faith walk will challenge us along the way:
 - (1) Your faith walk will take you to places that require you to depend upon God to get through it.
 - (2) The task ahead of you will be larger than you can accomplish in the flesh
 - (3) God has yet to fail, and this grows your faith.

IV. Close

- A. [Pro 3:5-8 ESV] 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.
- B. Release control, will, and plan, in order to trust Him more.
- C. [Psa 84:11-12 ESV] 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!