

Does the Lord Fit into Your Plans?

James 4:13-17

Lesson #10

7/14/24

Proverbs 16:9 *"In his heart, a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."*

Proverbs 19:21 *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."*

I. They created plans without any thought of God.

****James 4:13** *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.'"*

Luke 12:18 *"This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods."*

Luke 12:19 *"And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"*

Luke 12:20 *"But God said to Him 'you fool!' This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself."*

II. They had no control over tomorrow's plans.

A. Tomorrow's plans are not a guarantee.

****James 4:14a** *"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow .."*

B. Tomorrow may never come!

1. Our life is brief.

****James 4:14b** *"... What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."*

Amplified: *What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor ... a puff of smoke, a mist ... that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air]."*

I Chronicles 29:15b *"... Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope."*

Job 7:7a “Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath;”

Job 14:1 “Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

Job 16:17 “Only a few years will pass before I go on the journey of no return.”

Psalms 102:3a “For my days vanish like smoke; ...”

Psalms 102:11 “My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.”

2. Our lifespan is uncertain.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”^[2] A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.”

Psalms 139:16 “Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Ecclesiastes 8:7 “Since no man knows the future, who can tell Him what is to come? ^[8b] No man has power over the wind to contain it; so, no one has power over the day of his death”

III. They should not carelessly boast about their own plans.

A. Don't boast and brag.

James 4:16 “As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.”

Proverbs 27:1 “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”

I John 3:12 “Do not be like Cain who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brothers were righteous.”

I John 5:18 “We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.”

I John 5:19 “We know that we are children of God and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”

Galatians 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

B. Don't brush off the Word of God.

James 4:17 “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.”

How should we make our plans?

A. Include God in all your plans.

James 4:15 “Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

John 4:34 “My food, said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”

Acts 18:20 “When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. ^[21] But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God's will.”

Romans 1:10 “In my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.”

1 Corinthians 4:19 “But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have.”

1 Corinthians 16:7 “I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.”

Psalms 55:22 “The Lord's purpose will stand, even over many plans in a person's mind.”

B. Incorporate God's Word as you plan.

C. Increase your prayer time as you plan.

Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

D. Do not insist on having it your way.