

## Planning with God in Mind

*James 4:13-17*

Planning is something we all do at times. We make plans related to our careers, our families, our vacations, and many other things. Planning is simply part of life. In the passage we are looking at today, James specifically addresses a subset of his audience, a group of merchants, who were making business plans without God in mind. Whether or not we are in business, his challenge to them has application to all of us.

**Opening Discussion:** Some people plan in broad strokes while others love to nail down all of the fine details. Which way do you tend to be wired?

### Read James 4:13-17

1. What is the wrong attitude that James is confronting (vv. 13-14)? Why is this attitude wrong?
2. Why do you think it is so hard for us at times to remember that we don't know what tomorrow will bring and that our lives are like a vapor (v. 14)?
3. What does it mean to plan with an "if the Lord wills" perspective (v. 15)? What would be some indicators that we are really doing this?
4. How does James ultimately characterize the attitude of those who do not plan with the Lord in mind (v. 16)?
5. How does James 4:6 relate to what James is saying about how we plan?

6. How would you put what James is communicating into your own words?
  
7. In what area of your life right now do you most sense a need to pay attention to what James is saying? How can you apply the truths of this passage to that area?
  
8. Brian offered five suggestions to help plan with the Lord in mind: (1) surrender your business or whatever area/issue it is to God; (2) remember that you are a steward of what God has entrusted to you; (3) seek God in prayer; (4) seek biblical wisdom; and, (5) seek godly counsel. Which of these are really important to you right now? Anything else you would add that might help you plan with the Lord in mind?

### Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted

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**Daily Devotion:** Read and meditate upon next week's passage (James 5:1-6).



**Prayer:** Spend time this week asking God to show you if there is any of this arrogant/prideful approach to life that James is confronting. If there is, confess it to God. Invite God to develop an "if the Lord wills" attitude in your life.