

Message Reflections

February 9, 2020

Sometimes we live as if God does not exist. We conduct our business day by day without thinking a lot about what God wants. We make our plans based on our hopes and dreams, not God's. We may have a moral code of conduct, but we are not responding to God's daily guidance. That's a problem.

- How do you typically respond when your plans don't work out as you had hoped? What emotions do you experience? What sins might you be especially tempted to indulge because of those emotions?

Read James 4:13-17:

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." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

We all make plans. We need to or things would be a mess. Making plans is not the problem that James is talking about here. The problem is our attitude about the plans we make.

- What does James want you to consider, as you set about your daily life?
- Is it necessary always to say "if the Lord wills" all the time? What is James 4:15 encouraging you to do? How does it encourage you to think?
- Where do you struggle with the sin of taking control over things that belong in God's control?

Is there something that God has been prompting you to do for Him that you've been resisting? Keep turning to God's Word as you seek direction.

Eric