

Wise Planning James 4:13-17 “Faith Works”

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Theme: Faith/Works – Real genuine faith is going to impact – all areas of our lives.

A) Today as we close out chapter 4 – James’ focus is on WISE PLANNING!

B) Life involves Planning!

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|--|-----------------------|
| Small Business Owner: | Business Plan |
| Lose weight or get in shape | Exercise Plan |
| Parent: Kids college retirement ... | Financial Plan |
| Pilot..... | Flight Plan |
| Coach | Game Plan |
| Teacher | Lesson Plan |
| Traveler | Travel Plan |

C) Life involves planning – in fact there are people today who get paid to help others plan!

1) Remember the kid in High School – Nerdy – over planned everything – Now He is rich – own Business

Planning is important – I want you to note that the Bible doesn’t put down planning.

COMMENDS IT

A) Proverbs 30:25 – NLT “Ants--they aren't strong, but they store up food all summer.”

B) Ants are commended in the Bible for planning for the Future.

C) Jesus talked in Luke 14:28 “The wise Builder who counts the cost before he begins to make sure he can finish.”

D) God put together a very specific plan for the building of the Tabernacle & the Temple in the Old Testament.

E) There is a strategic plan in how the solar system has been put together /

1) As well as how the Human body is put together

God is into planning! – So don’t think that James here is trying to knock planning.

A) No the issue that James is dealing with here is an attitude of the heart that approaches life **independently from God!**

B) **Not including God in the Planning Process**

A man decides to rob a house during the middle of the night. He enters the house while all is dark and quiet. After a few steps in, he hears a voice saying, “Jesus is watching you.” The man is kind of freaked.

He hears it again, “Jesus is watching you.” He whips out his flashlight. He hears the voice again, “Jesus is watching you.” His flashlight finally finds the source of the voice. **It’s a parrot.** “Oh, it’s just a dumb parrot” he thinks. He lowers his flashlight a few feet and there is a vicious looking dog, baring his teeth.

The the parrot cries out, “Sic ‘em Jesus.”

C) Smart planning – Not exactly what it means to include Jesus in your planning

As we breakdown our text today – I want us to see - 4 Things to remember about Wise Planning

#1 Life is full of Surprises V.13-14a

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow.

Everything in your life could change today – with one phone call!

A) A Diagnosis from a doctor – a call about one of your kids –

B) Baseball player: - Guess pitches – Guessing fastball – throws Curve - freaks out –

1) Curve looks like it is starting at your head. BAILING – breaks across the plate.

C)Life includes a lot of Curve Balls {Dads Stroke
I was thinking about how complex life can be - I read this, interesting analogy:

A)Suppose you take ten pennies and mark them from one to ten... put them in your pocket

B)Shake it around for a while, mix them up.

1)Now try to draw them out in sequence from one through ten, Putting each coin back in your pocket after each draw.

C) So ten pennies - your chance of drawing out number one is one in ten.

- Your chance of drawing number one and two in succession is **one in a hundred**.
- Your chance of drawing numbers 1,2,3 in succession is **one in a thousand**.
- Your chance of drawing 1-4 in succession is **one in ten thousand**, and so on.

C)You know what your chance of drawing out coins 1-10 in succession is ? **one in ten billion**.

Nice Trivia -Point? If you can't deal with ten pennies in your pocket, how you going to control everything in your environment? You can't.

A)Infinite complexities that are far out beyond your ability and my ability to control.

B)#1 Life is full of Surprises

#2 Life is Short V. 14b – A Vapor

For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

A man arrived at the pearly gates. Saint Peter takes his name and looks for his name in the book of life. "Hey buddy, I'm sorry but I really can't find anything on you. It's not that I'm finding the bad, but I just can't find anything good either. If you can tell me one thing you did on earth that was good, you're in."

"Oh, I can think of one thing right off the bat - One time, I was driving down the road and saw a motorcycle gang surrounding this woman whose car had broken down. I pulled my car over, popped the trunk, and pulled out a tire iron. I ran over there, pushed **through all the bikers** and said, 'If you

want to get to her, you're going to have to go through me first.' Then I hit one of the bikers on the head with that tire iron"

Peter said, "Wow, that's impressive. When did that happen?"

The man looked at his watch - "**About three minutes ago,**"

Tomorrow is promised to No man!

A)Your life is vapor – appears for a little while and then it vanishes away.

B)NLT- Morning fog – Foggy by the beach in the morning – burns off – beautiful sunny day

C)Job declared Job 7:7 – **My life is but a breath**

1)Everyone take a deep breath – There goes your life

Psalm 90:10, 12 “**The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,**

So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

A)70-80 yrs seems like a long time: Most of us in this room – are closer to our futures than we are our past

B)70-80 yrs in comparison to eternity is nothing
1)LIFE IS SHORT

C)It is like a Sparkler on the 4th of July – burning bright one minute – out the next

Luke 12 – Jesus told the story of the farmer who had a bumper crop; bigger barns..... You fool tonight your life is required of you and you are not rich toward God

Read of an interesting practice In Constantinople of old, when an eastern monarch was crowned as emperor, the **royal mason would bring before him slabs of marble** on his coronation day.

The new emperor himself would select from the marble slabs **for his own tombstone**.

See The ancients thought it wise for him to remember **his funeral at the time of his elevation**,
Reminder that his life would not last forever"

Idea: Life is short – Make it count!

➤ **What kind of Legacy?**

What if we had such a practice at high school or college graduation?

A) Diploma and you get to pick out your tomb Stone

B) Your date of birth – then a DASH – the dash represents your life

C) What your life is going to represent!

1) Make it count – Make each day count

D) So in Wise planning – Remember #1 Life is full of Surprises #2 Life is Short

#3 God is Sovereign V.13, 16

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

A) Problem was they were not inviting God to the planning meeting

B) V.16 Reveals the Reason: ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

C) It is basically an attitude that says I don’t need to consult God – I have this figured out.

1) I have a wonderful Plan for my life!

D) We think we know more than we do?

Napoleon Bonaparte was a military genius, but his pride led to his downfall.

A) He was about to invade Russia, but a friend tried to dissuade him.

B) When it became apparent that Napoleon would not be budged, the friend shared the familiar proverb, “Man proposes, God disposes.”

C) Napoleon angrily snapped back, “I propose as well as Dispose.”

D) A Christian upon hearing this remark said, “I marked that down as the turning point of Bonaparte’s fortunes. God will not suffer a creature with impunity to usurp His prerogative.”

E) Sure enough, Napoleon’s invasion of Russia was the beginning of his downfall

We might not be so bold as Napoleon but we make the same mistake and take the same posture when we fail to pray.

A) When we fail to acknowledge God in our plans and our dreams.

B) V.15 “Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

C) If the Lord wills is not a trite formula – doesn’t mean – we always need to say that either

D) But it represents an attitude of the heart that says:

I know that God is sovereign and I want to be submitted to Him!

It is remembering - God is all knowing: He knows what pitch is coming

A) So when we are seeking him – when the curve ball comes – we are not freaking out.

B) In fact the longer you walk with God – you start to anticipate the curve balls –

1) Because you know that God uses them to build our faith –

C) Uses them to shape our lives!

D) Brice Harper – Looks for the Curve ball – easier to react to the Fastball – Straight

Not a Bad practice:

A) May not know the Future – but I know the one who holds the future –

B) What matters most – Yielded to him – connected to him

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;**

⁶ **In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.**

#4 Failure to acknowledge God in planning is not just unwise it is Sin V.17 ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

A) Sins of Commission: Trespass – When we violate a known barrier – or commandment –

B)No trespassing – We go in anyway! – Sins of Commission.

C)Also Sins of Omission – Not doing what we know is the right thing to do!

1)That can apply to anything in our lives.

D)We know the right thing is to Forgive – We don't – not just hurting ourselves – it is sin!

E)God puts on your heart to do something to bless your spouse – Don't do it –

1)Not just missing out – It is Sin

Here the Focus is on Wise planning – Failing to acknowledge God in our Planning – not just unwise

IT IS SIN! – SIN OF OMISSION!

A)Romans 12:1-2 LIFE ON THE ALTAR!

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The safest and best place that we can ever be as a person is in the center of God's will. Why ?

A)Psalm 33:11 “The counsel of the Lord stands forever; the **Plans of His heart** to all generations.”

B)KEY Phrase – the Plans of HIS HEART - This reminds us that **“The will of God comes from the heart of God,”**

C)I don't need to be afraid of God's will for me!

1)I USED TO BE – Afraid to surrender – genuinely felt – Might not like where – end up.

Here is what I have discovered: God's path for my life – many Detours – Baseball – to ministry.

A)Never regretted that – Friends and guys I played with who made it – NEVER ENVIED

B)**PASTOR of this Church** – Most blessed guy on the planet – { Don't deserve

C)**My wife:** I think she is a Babe – Beautiful – love everything about her.

1)First met her – Her outward beauty was not the first thing that attracted me – { **different girls dated**

D)Captured by heart – Inward Beauty – Heart for Jesus – **SHINED FOR JESUS**

1)Impressed me – Inspired me –

E)Not a Perfect marriage – She is So perfect for me!

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

A)This is such a huge statement: Jesus was saying – My Substance – my Satisfaction comes from:

DOING WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE

B)Stones Sang: Can't get no Satisfaction -

1)Never will until you are doing what God has purposed you to be doing.

C)In the Moment: In a Season – your Calling

God's will and God's way = Great Blessing – Purpose – Satisfaction.

A)Settle into – God's purpose for your life **YOKE**

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

B)Sometimes we can get so hung up with what we want our lives to look like.

1)Often times we are comparing what our life is not to someone else's – we want their lives

C)Instead of simply: Embracing – Your life –

1)Be **Faithful with what is in front of you.**

Your purpose? You exist for God

A)**Bought with a price... your own!**

B)Purpose is to glorify Him

C)How? Including him in every aspect of our lives

You have a purpose in life –

A)Purpose in your Family? Dad who leads – sets the course – family spiritually

B)Dad who loves – Visible expression of Jesus to your family!

C)Mom – Loves and respects her husband –
1)Serves and trains her kids

Purpose in this fellowship?

A)Part of the Body of Christ – Hand – a Foot

B)You have gifts – are you using them?
1)Body blessed and built up – or is the body being robbed – your unwillingness!

C)Purpose in this World?

1)Ambassador of Christ
2)Salt and Light

D)Your food – your sustenance is the do the will of the Father!

Being in the center of God's will doesn't mean that you will never be surprised by life.

A)It simply means that you are not going to be devastated by that surprise

A group of Christians are standing on a street corner holding out a sign that says, "**The end is near, turn around and go the other way.**"

A car came up to the curb and a man shouted out to them, "**Get away from me you religious nuts,**" and he continued around the bend.

The Christians heard the screeching of tires followed by a tremendous splash. One Christian turned to the others and said, "**Do you think we just should have put up a sign that said 'The bridge is out, turn around?'**"

Sometimes: You drive up and find that the Bridge is out there is a Detour sign.

A)Ok – God is Sovereign – He has got this!

B)He has got me – I just need to trust Him

C)His plan His purpose – Fulfilled

Jim Elliot 28, Ed McCully 28, Roger Youderian 32, Pete Fleming 29, Nate Saint 33

A)Five guys who all felt led to go to the Waodani Indians in Ecuador – Share the gospel.

B)If you know the story – you know it didn't turn out the way that they planned - - All Brutally Killed

C)Some people looked on – thought – what a waste – All so young – lives cut short

D)Wives went – Shared gospel – And tribe Saved

Jim Elliot – No man is a fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose!

A)See that is what it is about folks

B)My food is to do the will of the Father – Life is short – Life is full of surprises –

1)God is Sovereign

C)The Best thing: the most fulfilling thing I can do is to be in the center of His will for me!

If that means – Not playing it safe

A)If that means – I need to take a lesser role – put my dreams on the Altar – I am ok with that.

B)Not going to be truly happy – fulfilled – Satisfied until I am fulfilling HIS ROLE – PURPOSE – PLAN

C)ACKNOWLEDGE YOU IN ALL MY WAYS

Jim Elliott - "The will of God is always a bigger thing than we bargain for, but we must believe that whatever it involves, it is good, acceptable and perfect."

Difference between being Shocked by life – or Surprised by God!