



God Has an App for That!

Leaders Notes Week 7

“Prioritize Your Investments”

James 4:13-17

1. James addresses merchants, showing that the sovereignty of God prevents presumption and arrogance in making one's plans.
James 4:13 says, "...carry on business and make money." On the surface, this sounds like good business sense, but it masks a secular worldview that ignores God. These people are probably Christians belonging to the wealthy merchant class, whereas the rich people mentioned in 5:1–6 are probably not believers (cf. 2:6–7)
2. The similarities are James and Isaiah see that acknowledging God and understanding the brevity of life is essential in the life of a believer. Looking at one's life and seeking God's will bring us to a sobering state of repentance. "Here I am, send me" AND "If the Lord wills, I will do this or that" are statements that reflect God is in control. The difference is that the merchants in James are seeking selfish profitable gain, while in Isaiah, he is seeking to be sent wherever the Lord wills. The motives are different (selfish vs. unselfish).
3. These business people think they control events but fail to recognize God's providential control and the temporary nature of life which is like a mist that can fade away at any moment. Planning and investing are not wrong, but arrogant self-confidence and boasting are.
4. Go around and share. As you have become more and more comfortable with your group, you can begin listing some areas of your life where you have seen yourself affected by the arrogance of thinking you are in control. Allow for members to share their parallels to this passage. Remember... no short answers, no simple fixes.
5. This question is to get us thinking along the lines of submitting all we do to "the Lord's will". Our words are an overflow of our heart. So, if our heart

recognizes that apart from the Lord's will we can do nothing, then saying it is just a good reminder.

6. Go around and share. The point of this question is to begin looking at our priorities. When we are faced with a timeline, we change what we do and how we do it accordingly. It's kind of like when we are planning a vacation for 2 weeks and have to get everything done at work before we leave. We suddenly find ourselves maximizing our every decision knowing that we have limited time. Now, multiply that by going around and sharing how you would change your life, knowing you have one year to live.

7. "If the Lord wills", with "Lord" referring to Yahweh as the Creator who sustains the universe and whose will controls all that happens. Every business decision must be based on submission to God's will. 1 Corinthians 5:6 says, "Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" One cannot boast in his own power and strength. 2 Corinthians 10:17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

8. In these verses, Paul is saying to keep up the fight for Christ all the way to your last breath. I remember someone saying, "If you were born in 1930 and died 1980, the grave stone would read 1930 – 1980. What does the "dash" in between the numbers look like?" Based on the gravestone, people would know when you were born and when you died, but the dash would be your life.

9. Go around the room and share what your legacy could look like. What does the dash in your life look like? Someone once said, "If you are not legacy minded, what you do ends with you."

FURTHER STUDY |

There is a reoccurring theme throughout scripture for each one of these topical studies. Take this week as the Leader of your group to immerse yourself in the reading of the Word and see how these verses can help you download God's app to Prioritize Your Investments.

- Matthew 23:22-24
- Psalm 119:175-176
- Matthew 6:23
- Ephesians 5:23
- Philippians 3:7-9
- James 1:17-18
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- Philippians 1:20-22

