



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE – March 17

PRIMARY PASSAGE

James 4:13-5:6: 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.” ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

1.) Read vv. 4:13-4:17. What statements does James make that stands out to you about planning? (Optional: Read Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:9)

2.) Take a moment and think about how you approach planning in your life. Can you share ways that you struggle to include God in the planning? Ways that you do include God in your planning?

3.) Read vv. 5:1-6. In these verses James speaks harshly against those who approach prosperity foolishly. What are some of the principles that he criticizes?

4.) In Matthew 6, Jesus speaks significantly about planning and money. Read vv. 19-34. What do these verses tell us about how we can wisely approach planning and prosperity?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

In this passage, James talks about how we as believers must approach planning and prosperity. He shows us how to do each of these wisely with one simple overarching principle: My decisions are not driven by what I want, but what honors God.

- **Which of the James' comments about planning and prosperity resonated most with you?**
- **Where in your planning or prosperity, do you need to change something to better honor God? How can you take that next step?**