

The BOOK of JAMES

WHAT VIBRANT *faith* LOOKS LIKE

Key Scriptures

James 4:13-5:1-11

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. 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. 7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

Eternal Attitude

In James 4:13-5:11, we see the importance of having an "eternal attitude." Focusing our eyes on eternity helps us live with urgency, passion, and purpose as we grow in our understanding of what really matters in our lives on earth. An eternal perspective will fuel us through anything we face in this life, knowing nothing can stop us from getting to our ultimate destination!

Think about it.

The four main points from last weekend's sermon:

- We need to recognize that our time is short. If we live every day with this in mind, we will spend the time we have doing what matters most.
- We need to understand that our purpose is God's plan, not our own plan. Fulfilling His plan for our lives is the best possible way we can live.
- We need to acknowledge that our possessions are not our own. We are blessed to be a blessing to others.
- We need to remember that our trials are temporary. We can endure, because eternity is coming!

Share your insight.

1. What would you do differently if you only had 30 days to live? How does recognizing that your time on earth is short help you prioritize your life?
2. Discuss the difference between living to fulfill God's plan vs. living to fulfill our own plan. Do you know your God-given purpose? If so, what are you doing to live it out?
3. What are some barriers that might keep you from living generously? How can you be a blessing to others with your blessings?
4. These past 15 months have been a "study guide" for eternal attitude, revealing areas in which each of us struggle to maintain that perspective. In what area do you need to invite God's power to do a work in your life?

Pray for one another.

- "LIVE AS THOUGH CHRIST DIED YESTERDAY, ROSE TODAY, AND IS RETURNING TOMORROW." Read James 5:13-16.
- Take time to be silent before the Lord by asking Him what He wants you to put more of your energy on.
- Pray this together: *Jesus, we invite You to do a work in our lives. Empower us to live with an eternal attitude and make the most of the time You have given us. Help us fulfill Your purpose for our lives and be a blessing to others!*