

Text: James 4:13-17

Title: How To Make Plans

Thought: Do it with Humility

Topic: Submission to God

Teaching: Include God in Your Planning

Topic Introduction:

Story Start
I had one small task to get done at work; it had been a grueling day; so I decided I would go home and complete the task first thing the next day.

Story Setup
Well, it ended up raining like crazy that night and on into the next day. The rain changed my plans; I spent the next three days repairing roof leaks.

Story Shift
That simple task that I planned to do the next day, didn't get done until the next week. The things I didn’t plan for ended up changing my plans.

Story Significance
James speaks about this in the text; he highlights the proper way to make plans when you don’t know what tomorrow may bring.

Sermon Sentence: James Says Always Make Plans with God in Mind
Whenever you make plans, it should be done with God in mind. if God is in your mind and your heart, he should also be in your plans.

Sermon Saying: Jesus says, Talk About Your Help
If God is in your Plans it should show up in your speech, you should be talking about what you’re going to do with Gods help.

Blessing: Including God in Your Plans Keeps Your Life Aligned
When we include God in the plan we will always be aligned with his plan. We will reach our Goal and God will get the glory.



Problem: Plans of Pride Will Take Us Off Course
Pride, arrogance, and selfish desires will prevent us from aligning with Gods plan or including him in our plans.

Challenge: Your Purpose Must Be Greater Than Your Pride
We must address any areas of pride and selfish desires that keep us from seeking and submitting to the will of God.

Matthew 6:33 *KJV 1900*
33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Text Background:
In today's text James is talking to his fellow believers about the things that Christians fight against and the things they must guard against.

He says that we must fight against the flesh, the world, and the devil, then he says we must be on guard against, being prideful, critical, and arrogant.

James gives us an negative example of someone pridefully and arrogantly making plans without factoring God into the equation.

Don't Make Plans with Pride
Pride will always put you at odds with God.
James 4:6 KJV 1900
6 ....Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud,

Humility Is Including God in Your Plans
Humility says I need Gods approval and assistance to achieve my plans
James 4:6 *KJV 1900*
6 ...God resisteth the proud, but ***giveth grace unto the humble****.*



I. DETAILS OF THE PLAN...vs 13

A. The day...today or tomorrow

1. He has a date for starting his plan

B. The destination...Such a city

1. He has a location to establish his plan

C. The duration... for a year

1. He has a time frame to accomplish his plan

D. The dedication...buy and sell

1. He has a strategy to enact his plan

E. The desire... to make a profit

1. He tells us his plan is to make a profit

II. THE DEFICIT IN THE PLAN...v14

A. Things You Don't Know

1. There are things you don't know that could impact your plans

B. You Don't Know What's Coming

1. Tomorrow can bring challenges that cause you to change your plan

C. You Don't Know What Happens Next

1. You can’t predict what will happen with the things you can’t control

D. You Don't Know where you'll Be

1. You don't know if you have time to execute your plan



III. THE DIRECTIVE FOR THE PLAN...v15

A. The Plans Should Speak of God

1. We should talk about what we're expecting God to do

B. The Plans Should Be to Seek God for His Plan

1. We should be seeking God for what he wants us to do

C. Our Plans Should Be in Sync with God's Plan

1. Paul planned to preach in Asia God wanted him to go to Europe

D. The Plans Should Submit to God

1. Paul submitted to the will of God… Acts 16:1-10

IV. THE DETRIMENT OF THE PLAN...vs16

A. Planning Without God Is Arrogant

1. Your overconfident in your ability and importance

B. Planning Without God Is Boastful

1. Boastful speaking builds up self instead of giving glory to God

C. Planning Without God Is Evil

1. Is the wrong thing to do, it will be hurtful to you

D. Planning Without God Is Lustful

1. The desire for what you want, is greater than you devotion to God



V. HOW TO PLAN WITH HUMILITY

A. Plan with Prayer

1. The bible said prayer about everything, make your request known to God

Philippians 4:6 KJV 1900
6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

B. Plan with Purpose

1. God will help you fulfill the purpose he has set for your life

Joshua 1:5 *KJV 1900*
5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

C. Don't Rely on What You Know

1. Humility helps us realize that our understanding is limited

Proverbs 3:5–6 *KJV 1900*
5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

D. Humility Means We Prioritize God's Will Over Our Own

1. Your plan is secondary to Gods

Matthew 6:10 *KJV 1900*
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

E. Gods Plan Will Bring You Victory

1. God gave Joshua a Plan for victory… Joshua 6:2-5