

TITLE: James (Lesson 23)

TEXT: James 4:13-17

INTRO: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."
Proverbs 6:6-8

I. What this passage means and doesn't mean.

A. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't make plans.

1. Setting goals and making plans can be a good thing.

NOTE: Prov. 15:22; 20:18; 21:5

B. It does mean that our plans should revolve around God's will for our lives.

1. God's purposes take precedence over our priorities.

NOTE: Prov. 16:3; Luke 14:28-33; I Cor. 6:19-20

II. (vs. 13) Presumptuous planning.

A. "Go to now, ye that say"

1. *Listen* businesspeople doing business as if God doesn't exist!

NOTE: Consider the people in Noah's day. (Matt. 24:38-39) It's called *secularism*.

B. A Christian recognizes God has the right to change our plans!

III. (vs. 14) Two facts that apply to everyone.

A. We don't even know for sure what tomorrow will bring.

NOTE: Prov. 27:1; Luke 12:16-21 Consider Peter's pride. (Matt. 26:31-34)

B. Life is brief.

IV. (vs. 15) A proper perspective.

A. Pursue God's will for my life.

NOTE: Matt. 6:25-34

B. Life is uncertain but God is sovereign.

1. He is in control of all things.

NOTE: Rom. 8:28

V. (vs. 16) Boasting in ourselves is evil.

A. Because we have deceived ourselves into trusting in our own abilities and possessions.

NOTE: Beware how you view success. Consider Nebuchadnezzar! (Dan. 4:30-37)

B. Because we are not trusting God by submitting to His control in our lives.

C. Humility should be the trait of every believer.

NOTE: Phil. 2:9-11

VI. (vs. 17) Honor God in all things!

A. This includes our business practices.

NOTE: Doing what is good for the business may not be what is good for those whom the business affects. How would God use your business if He was the CEO?