

G R O W T H N O T E S

Scripture Text: James 4:13-14

SERMON SERIES: Words That Change Reality

Message:

“N O W!”

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE TEXT

James 4: NIV: 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.

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James 4:13-14: Message: And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, “Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we’re off to such and such a city for the year. We’re going to start a business and make a lot of money.” You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.

BACKGROUND OF TODAY’S MESSAGE

- Today we’re going to focus on the word—“NOW”—and the urgency of living in the now!

- Because—there's a great opportunity before us—on this day—in this moment—right now—for us to be vehicles of God's love—God's truth—God's peace—God's power—God's justice—and God's mercy—in a broken—dysfunctional—upside down world!
- The life of faith is not one that spends an inordinate amount of time wondering about—or stressing about—daydreaming about—speculating about—thinking about—or arguing about what could happen tomorrow—next week—next month—next year—or down the road!
- Because—there's an incredible opportunity to experience who God is—and desires to be in and through our lives right now in this moment!

- One of the most dangerous words in our vocabulary—is the word tomorrow!
- It is one of the most dangerous words in Scripture—because any person who becomes preoccupied with—gets busy focusing on—commiserating about—and focusing on tomorrow runs the risk of losing and missing what God could do and wants to do—in your life, today!
- BUT—spending too much time being captive—being held captive of tomorrow—robs you of the dynamic transformative supernatural things that God desires to do in your life today!

- SO—we must all be careful about—and constantly monitor our proclivity towards procrastination!
- You would be amazed at how many things never get done—because we never get around to it!
- DELAY—can be the deadliest form of DENIAL
- Here—the teacher of the text is prompting us to live our lives in the now!
- To live this day as if it were your last day—knowing that one day—it will be!
- That whatever is in your heart to say—SAY IT!

- Whatever love you have to share—SHARE IT!
- Whatever is in your mind to do—DO IT!
- Whatever is in your heart to attempt—ATTEMPT IT!
- LIVE YOUR LIFE NOW!

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***HOW DO WE EMBRACE THE LIFE-CHANGING
NOTION OF “NOW?”***

- ***HERE’S THE FIRST POINT—“YOU’VE GOT TO
FACE THE ENEMIES OF NOW!”***

1. ENEMY #1 IS—“INDICISION!” James 1:8

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2. ENEMY #2 IS—“PERFECTIONISM!”

Ecclesiastes, Chapter 11, Verse 4—It Says—“If you wait for perfect conditions—you’ll never get anything done!”

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3. ENEMY #3 IS—“FEAR!”

Proverbs, Chapter 29, Verse 5, Says—“The fear of people is a trap!”

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4. ENEMY #4 IS—“LAZINESS!”

Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 4, Says—“Lazy people want much—but get little—while the diligent are busy prospering!”

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5. ENEMY #5 IS—“AVERSION TO COMMITMENT!”

Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8, Says—“... While you were yet sinners—Christ died for you!

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6. ENEMY #6 IS—“COMFORT!”

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THE COSTS OF TOMORROW!

1. COST #1 OF OBSESSED OVER TOMORROW IS THAT IT'LL FILL YOUR LIFE WITH REGRET!

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2. COST #2—IT FILLS YOUR LIFE WITH PROBLEMS! – Exodus 8

3. COST #3—ROB YOU OF RELATIONSHIPS!

4. COST #4—ROB YOU OF TIME!

5. COST #5—STEAL YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE! - Luke 9:59-62

6. COST #6—ROB YOU OF SUCCESS!

Proverbs, Chapter 20, Verse 4, Says—“If you won’t plow in the cold you won’t eat at the harvest.”

7. COST #7—It May Rob You Of The Opportunity For Salvation!”

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CONCLUSION

- ***THE CURE FOR PROCRASTINATION!***
- ***TWO WORDS—IMMEDIATE RESPONSE!***

My Notes: _____
