

Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: What Time Is It?

Our view of the future greatly influences where we place our assurance. James urges us to humbly view all of our days as being under the sovereign will of the Lord.

In what ways does the worldly, false wisdom of our culture promote arrogance?

How is arrogance blatantly and openly encouraged today? How are arrogance and self-centeredness more subtly encouraged?

This week we'll continue in the Book of James, moving from wordliness and godliness to arrogance and humility. Once again we can see a natural progression in the themes as one thought leads to the next. Last week James commanded us to resist the devil, pursue God, and take our sin seriously, humbling ourselves before God. Now we'll apply that perspective of humility to the way we live godly lives.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 4:13-16.

Is it arrogant to make plans? Is it worldly to make a profit? What was James saying in these verses?

What was James's point in comparing us to a mist or a vapor? Why is this truth an important reality to keep in mind?

In what way is humility ultimately a posture of faith?

There are three ways to pursue humility, as well as ways to test whether we're walking in arrogance: We must understand and acknowledge our weaknesses. We must admit that there are things we do not understand. We must learn to acknowledge others. All of our tomorrows can be thwarted by outside factors. We do not know what tomorrow holds. As created beings, we lack knowledge, and we lack power to do anything about that. God is all-knowing, He is all-powerful, and He is everywhere at once. Any ground for boasting or swagger or self-exaltation is foolish.

Why is admitting weakness a liberating truth? Why is acknowledging humility vital to the unity of the church?

Why do most people lack enough humility to admit they don't know something?

In what way is acknowledging others the counterpart to admitting our own weakness?

As we admit our weakness, we grow in knowledge of our neediness before God. As we grow in this awareness, we grow in humility. In the church, we come alongside others who also recognize their neediness in humility and together seek to build one another up seeking to follow after our Great King.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 4:17.

How does this verse expand our understanding of sin?

How does the cross give hope to those of us who haven't done the right thing? How does that hope lead us to humility?

This verse makes it clear that sin does not only include things that are done. Sin can also be things undone that we know we should do. Every single person has sinned both by wrongs done and rights left undone. Our hope is in Christ who always, at all times does what is right and never what is wrong. Through His perfect life, death, and resurrecti

lion, we are given His perfect record, as we place our faith in Him. This leads to greater humility as we recognize that our salvation is based on nothing we have done or earned on our own.

APPLICATION

Are you more prone not to recognize your own weakness or to feel that God can't use you because of your weaknesses? Why are both of these extremes really two sides of the same coin of arrogance?

How do always having an opinion and always being a hero damage relationships? How have you been guilty of this in the past? Who do you need to seek reconciliation with?

How does a posture of humility provide greater opportunity to share the gospel with others?

PRAYER

Pray for a spirit of humility and not of arrogance. Ask God to remind you of the brevity of life and to give you an urgency in caring for others and sharing the gospel with them.