

LOOKING AHEAD

Week 8: James 4:13-5:20

1. **Read James 4:13-5:20.**
2. Verse 13 lays out a business itinerary: “*go to this or that city*”, “*spend a year there*”, “*make money*”. Even the starting time is arranged “today or tomorrow”.
 - What an issue has been left out the plans? (Here James is writing to Christians engaged in business who know better, but act on sinful motives.)
 - How can planning for the future be wise? How can it become sinful? What is the difference?
 - What answer does James give concerning our business practices and our plans (v. 15)?
3. Why are sins of omission so much easier to downplay than sins of commission? What are some specific struggles and your life in terms of scriptural commands you tend to ignore?
4. What are some specific ways in which materialism and covetousness show up in your own life?
5. According to James 5:1-11, why is it detrimental to our faith to abandon a belief in Christ’s return and final judgment? How should this truth affect our outlook on life while we wait?
6. Is the patience James calls for different from inactivity? Explain.
7. Why is faith in God’s character so crucial in our suffering? How is Job a model in this regard?
8. What advice (and caution) does James give in verse 12? How important is this principle for living out your faith? What connection does this verse have to Exodus 20:7 & 16?
9. How should a Christian live no matter the circumstances? How are we to live in “community” with other Christians?
10. What role does the body of Christ play in praying for one another? Do you participate in this type of prayer (having others pray for you and praying for others)? Explain.