

I Can See Clearly Now...Walking With Clear Eyes

James 4:13-5:6

Introduction:

- A. Welcome and Scripture reader
- B. As James begins to wind down this letter (remember to whom it was written) he gets to some very practical warnings and encouragements.
- C. His big encouragement in this section of the letter is if your view your life from a Kingdom/Heavenly perspective, you will live your for the Kingdom.
- D. We go through this text twice today
 - 1. First to see the warnings.
 - 2. Second to see the encouragements.

I Warnings in the text

- A. Prideful planning 4:13 – *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."*
- B. False sense of control 4:14a – *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.*
- C. Misunderstanding of life - 4:14b – *What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*
- D. Self Reliance - 4:15 – *Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*
- E. The dangerous end of this path – 4:16-5:6
 - 1. Self promotion - 4:16 – *As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.*
 - 2. Blatant Apathy - 4:17 – *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*
 - 3. Misplaced security 5:1-3 *Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*
 - 4. Misuse and abuse of people 5:4-6 *Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The*

cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

F. He's not saying....

1. Don't plan
2. Don't work
3. Wealth is wrong
4. Too many times in the Bible we see people making plans (Paul's MJ), warnings against not working and being lazy; Wealthy people doing well.
5. But to have a proper view

II The encouragement –

- A. Proper view of your life 4:13-14 - *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." 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.*
- B. Proper View of Your Plans –4:15 *Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*
1. Plan humbly 4:15a *"if it's the Lord's will"*
 2. Plan loosely – 4:15b *"we will do this or that"*
- C. Proper view of success 4:16-17
1. We are more blessed than we are accomplished.
 2. Give glory to God.
- D. Proper view of wealth 5:1-4
1. Wealth is a relative – 5:1 - *Now listen you rich people*
 2. Wealth does not insulate you from trouble – 5:1 - *Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.*
 3. Wealth is temporary – 5:2-3 *Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*

4. Wealth is a tool to bless others - 5:4-6

Conclusion:

- A. When Jesus came to the Earth, a lot of his teaching was to correct perspectives of how people view their lives.
- B. Sermon on the Mount Parallel – Matthew 6:19-34 –

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- C. Offer Invite...