

Practically Disciples: The Letter of James | Wk 10 | 10/4/2020

A Seattle Church: [@ASeattleChurch](#) | [Pastor Tyler Gorsline](#)

WARM-UP: Together

1. Are you a planner, or a go-by-the-seat of your pants person?
2. What was a fun surprise change of plans you experienced this last year?

WORD: Truth

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Pastor Tyler led us to consider James' invitation to greater dependence on Christ over our plans. We are all prone to have visions for how our life will go. In the big and the small. This year has taught us that we didn't have as much control over outcomes and realities as we thought. Yet, God is still faithful. James graciously showed the early church how they were **Arrogant in knowledge, attitude, and actions** (or their lack thereof). He showed how we are so quick to form foolish presumptions, to forget our position as mere humans, to forsake our first priority of following Christ, to proudly flaunt our plans, and brag about how we think we accomplish things apart from God. To be blind to the ways that we presume false prosperity of our plans while neglecting the "weightier matters of God's law" (Matt 23:23) by refusing to do the good God requires of us. Yet, James shows us that in spite of our best laid plans God is gracious to let us know that we are people whose lives are "but a mist". God invites us to live "not by bread alone, but by every (written and spoken) word of God" to us. Are you doing so? Are you living in utter dependence on God? Whether you are or not, it is the truth of all our existence.

Read James 4:13-17:

If helpful read in three chunks (vv 13, 14-16, 17). Questions follow this breakdown.

Read vv 13:

- a. What types of planning does James identify? (time ('today or tomorrow'), purpose ('we will go'), place ('to this or that city'), goals ('to carry on business') and reward ('make money') (Webster). How do you put your faith in these plans?

Read vv 14-16:

- b. What do you think James means when he says "our life is a mist?" Where/ Why do you need to remember this in how you are ordering your life?

Read v 17:

- c. What "sin(s) of omission" are you committing by choosing your plans over God's?

- **Concept/Passage for Deeper Study:** Read Proverbs 16:9 & 27:1; *Luke 12:16–20*, and Hosea 13:2A & 2:3. Read 1 John 2:16 and answer specifically where you have embraced the “boastful pride of life” in your faith. Where you have forgotten the fragility of your life, and God’s call to follow Jesus with urgency. Where do you think you can make plans as if God doesn’t ultimately “determine your steps”. Consider **this graph** and how much time you may or may not have left to serve God on earth. Embrace the urgency in that.

APPLICATION: Equip (“Way”)

1. How is God calling you to greater dependence on God and His word (spoken/written)?

PRAYER Empower (“Life” in the Spirit)

1. Spend time reflecting on what God is telling you specifically in your group prayer time.
2. Do you have a specific prayer request?
3. How can we pray for you as you embrace greater dependence on God over your plans?

COMMUNION Together

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. On Sunday, October 11th, a special guest and friend of our church, Eugene Cho, will teach us how to engage the powerful intersection of "Church and Politics." Eugene and his wife, Minhee, founded Quest Church in Seattle before going on to lead international humanitarian agencies One Day's Wages and Bread for the World. He is also the author of "Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics" and "Overrated: Are We More in Love with the Idea of Changing the World Than Actually Changing the World?" **You won't want to miss this one of a kind treat of having Eugene teach us! Invite a friend and join us.**
2. Have you been baptized? If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**
3. **Share testimony of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? HERE**
4. **How can we come alongside you in more specific ways as a church? Let us know.**

5. **All-Church Prayer Call on Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week.**
1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
6. Next Week, Please **INVITE A FRIEND** to **join us online or at your group** for week 11 of our current series Practically Disciples The Book of James. Share with your **social media** communities, engage our channels during the gathering to help others do so as well
7. **Sign up for ASC Newsletter Weekly Updates HERE.**