



*Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!*

*September 7, 2025 – The Book of James*

## *Closing the Gap by putting Jesus' Lordship first in your plans!*

James 4:13-17 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—

<sup>14</sup>yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

<sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

<sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

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Lamentations 3:22-23

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Proverbs 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

Psalms 37:3

Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Matthew 6:34

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

### **Four observations:**

#### **1. We often set our plans based on our perception of our passions and desires.**

*James 4:13; 4:1-12. Also see Galatians 5:16-17 and Romans 7:13-24*

> Each Christian is a paradox: a sinful nature and born-again nature and Spirit. These are in opposition!

#### **2. Two things our perception doesn't know or consider:**

1) we have no idea what tomorrow holds!

Losses and changes: job loss, health loss, deaths, economy, etc.

2) how fleeting our life is!

*James 4:14*

#### **3. Yield FIRST to Jesus' Lordship in your life – then plan!**

*James 4:15*

> humility and submission to Him (James 4:1-12)

> His will comes first!! Not tacked on at the end!

#### **4. Planning apart from the Lordship of Jesus is spiritually a huge mistake!**

*James 4:16-17*

Planning and moving ahead without the Lordship of Jesus is arrogant, evil, and sinful – yikes!

**-- Be doers of the word who act, and not hearers only --**

#### **1. Consciously, intentionally, and daily, humble yourself before the Lord!**

> He is Lord, we are not!

*James 4:6-10; Proverbs 3:5-6*

#### **2. Wholeheartedly follow Christ "Today"!**

*Hebrews 3-4; Matthew 6:34; Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 37:3*

*Application questions on the back →*

--- Close the Gap by putting Jesus' Lordship first! ---

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**SUNDAY after church...**

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

**MONDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** Often we assume we are fully yielded to Christ as we make our plans. Can you list situations where you assumed you were, but weren't yielded to Him? What were some signs that showed you your lack of submission to Christ?

**PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

**TUESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Write out some things that your passions and desires aren't understanding (James 4:14). Can you describe them? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

**WEDNESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Read James 4:6-10 and write out, in practical terms, how you can learn to submit to Jesus. Why is it so vital? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

**THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** James 4:13-17 seems to point to a life lived "each day". Read through the additional verses printed in the left sidebar. Write out applications or how you apply these. **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

**SATURDAY**

**Prepare** your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.