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**What is Your Life?**

Pastor Gregg Brenes

**What is your life?**

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. James 4:13-14

**My future belongs to God.**

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. James 4:15-16

**Living in God's world as though God matters.**

- Acknowledge God's sovereignty.
- Submit your plans to God.
- Depend on God.
- Hold your plans with humility.

**James moves the discussion from the law to relationship.**

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. Js. 4:17

**My resources belong to God.**

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.<sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.<sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days...<sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. Js. 5:1-6

**My life belongs to God.**

- Have I submitted my plans to God? (James 4:13-17)
- Have I submitted my finances to God? (James 5:1-6)
- Have I submitted the way I treat people to God? (James 5:6)

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**Let's Talk About It**

James challenges us to consider a deeper problem than just making bad choices: *living our lives as though God isn't actively involved in our lives*. The people James wrote to were making plans without consulting God, and the wealthy people he addressed were using their resources without considering God's purposes or other people. At the root of both is the same issue—a life of independence rather than dependence on God. James reminds us that our future, our possessions, and our lives ultimately belong to Him. Instead of holding tightly to control, he invites us to humbly trust God and surrender every area of our lives to His loving leadership.

James 4:13-17; 5:1-6; Psalm 39:4-7; Psalm 90:12; Jeremiah 9:23-24

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read James 4:13-17. When you think about your daily life, where are you most tempted to operate independently of God? Why is it often easier to ask God to bless our plans than to ask Him what His plans are?
- How do you typically make decisions about your future? Where does God fit into that process? If someone looked at your calendar, what would they conclude is most important to you? What is one plan or goal you're currently pursuing that you need to surrender more fully to God?
- Read James 5:1-6. What is the difference between viewing your money as your possession versus God's provision? How would your spending change if you regularly asked, "God, what do You want me to do with this?" In what ways can comfort, security, or financial success subtly compete with trust in God?
- What is one area of your life—your plans, your finances, or your relationships—where God is inviting you to trust Him more deeply? What is one practical step you can take this week to acknowledge God's leadership in that area?

**Take a Step**

- What is one practical step you can take this week to acknowledge God's leadership in an area where you've been relying on yourself?

**Here's My Prayer**

God, thank You for every good gift You have entrusted to me. Forgive me for the times I place my trust in money, possessions, or myself instead of You. Help me hold what I have with open hands, live generously, and use my resources in ways that honor You and bless others. Teach me to find my security in Your faithfulness, knowing that You are my provider and that Your kingdom is worth more than anything this world can offer. In Jesus name, amen.