



Sermon Discussion Guide

07.20.25 Message | Tyler Nobis | James 3:13-18

Key Scripture (ESV):

“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”—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. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 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.

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”

— James 4:13–5:6 (ESV)

Think Deeper *(Does your group understand the passage?)*

1. James warns against presuming on tomorrow (4:13–14). What does it look like in your life when you “boast in arrogance” instead of saying “If the Lord wills”?

2. How does viewing life as a “mist that appears for a little time” reshape your priorities and daily decisions?
3. In verse 15, James gives a model for planning. What practical shifts would happen if you prefaced your plans with “If the Lord wills”?
4. Why does James call the withholding of fair wages from laborers a sin crying out to God (5:4)? What does this teach us about justice and compassion?
5. What connection do you see between self-indulgence and the “day of slaughter” imagery in 5:5? How does this warn us against the lure of comfort?

THINK LIFE CHANGE *(Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)*

James warns that “to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is sin” (4:17). What is one area in your life where you’ve known God’s will but resisted obedience, and what would genuine repentance look like there?

1. Seeing life as a “mist” (4:14) challenges us to invest in what endures. What habit, relationship or pursuit might you need to let go of so you can invest more fully in eternal purposes?
2. The cries of cheated laborers reach the ears of the Lord (5:4). How will you align your daily choices—whether in your workplace, spending or advocacy—to ensure you’re not complicit in injustice?

THINK ENGAGE *(Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)*

1. How have you experienced the tension between making plans and trusting God’s timing? What’s a recent example where you said “If the Lord wills,” and how did that shape the outcome?
2. What “false security” (money, status, comfort) tempts you most, and how does James’ warning about rotted riches (5:2) invite you to re-evaluate that trust?
3. When have you seen God’s faithfulness in the “tomorrow” you once worried over, and how can that memory fuel trust in him for your next step?

THINK KINGDOM *(Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)*

- If the wealth of this age will vanish but the treasures of heaven endure, what priority shift could you make today to store up “treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:19-21) in light of James’ warnings?