

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

James 4:13-17

April 22, 2007 Sunday p.m.

INTRODUCTION

A. In 1966 Michael Cain made a movie title simply, "Alfie". In 2004 Judd Law made a remake by the same name.

I'm not recommending you see the movie because it had an "R" rating. However, the song written for the movie became a kind of question for the 60's generation when it asked, "What's it all about, Alfie? Is it just for the moment we live?"

B. Some form of this question has been asked in every generation. "What's life all about".

C. James wrote his own answer to this age old question in our text. What does he say life is all about?

I. FIRST, JAMES SAYS LIFE ISN'T ABOUT US.

A. Some Christians in his day thought life was all about them-vv. 13-14, &16.

1. James isn't criticizing planning for the future.

2. He is, however, criticizing planning for the future that lives God out of the equation.

3. The English writer Ernest Hensley (1849-1903) captured this kind of self absorbed attitude when he wrote in verse....

"It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul" (Echoes)

B. Why aren't we the master of our fate and captain of our soul?

1. Because tomorrow is never certain-v.14a. Proverbs 27:1.

"Anne" song-"The sun will come out tomorrow
...tomorrow...tomorrow, I love ya' tomorrow,
you're only a day away".

2. Because life is always uncertain-v.14b.

One day a doctor called one of his patients into his office. He said he had some good news and some bad news to tell him. The man says, first give me the good news. The doctor said "you only have two days to live". The man was devastated but he went on to ask well what could possibly be that bad news. The Doctor replied, "I was supposed to tell you the good news yesterday!". Life is never certain is it?

II. SECOND, JAMES SAYS LIFE ISN'T ABOUT US BECAUSE ITS ABOUT GOD.

A. First, James says, life is about God's will, not our own-v.15.

B. Second, James says, life is also about living for others, and not just ourselves.

1. Living for ourselves isn't just selfish, according to James, its sinful-v.17.

2. James addresses this again in 5:1-6.

3. Another Englishman named, John Donne (1572-1631) reminds us- "No man is an Island, entire of itself"

CONCLUSION

A. What's it all about Alfie? What's life all about?

1. Its not about us.

2. Its about God.

B. We are not the master of our fate or the captain of our soul. God is!