Lesson 26 James 4:13-17

Plan Ahead

1. How would you describe the two attitudes described in verses 13-17?

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we shall go into such and such a town, spend a year there doing business, and make a profit”—

14 you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow.\* You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears.

15 Instead you should say, “If the Lord wills it,\* we shall live to do this or that.”

16 But now you are boasting in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

17 So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.

2. Regarding "tomorrow", what's wrong with the type of planning described here?

3. Why is it foolish to ignore the will of God?

4. Why do you think someone who knew the will of God would deliberately ignore or disobey it?

5. What precondition is there to knowing God's will? (vs. 15)

15 Instead you should say, “If the Lord wills it,\* we shall live to do this or that.”

6. James compares life to a mist (vs. 14). How does a sudden death, especially that of a famous person help us to realize this?

14 you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow.\* You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears.

7. Is James saying it's wrong to plan for the future? Explain.

8. Why don't we need to be afraid of the will of God?

9. Ever omit God in your planning? Explain the results.

10. Try to remember some of your own failures to do what you should do (vs. 17). If your failure has caused trouble for someone else, have you tried to repair the damage?

17 So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.