



- Life is **short**; don't **waste** it.

Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. Psalm 39:4

13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. James 4:13-16

#### Faith that corrects our posture before God:

- We need to bring God's **purpose** into our plans.

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity. Proverbs 21:5

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. Proverbs 16:9

We start asking God to **bless our plans** instead of asking God to give us His plans.

10 ...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

#### Action Step:

Start looking at your future through the **lens** of God's purpose.

17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:17

#### Faith that corrects our posture before God:

- It's not enough to **know** what's right if we're not willing to **do** what's right.

#### Points James is making:

That self-reliance is a deliberate **choice**, not an innocent mistake.

Sin is not always active it can also be **passive**.

#### Action Step:

Decide today that you will not **refuse** to include God in your plans.

1 Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.

2 Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. James 5:1-3

#### Faith that corrects our posture before God:

- Use your **money** for God; don't treat it as your God.

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

#### Four questions James forces us to ask:

Is the money I have serving God's **purposes**, or serving my **desires**?

Am I **grateful** for what I have, or constantly chasing what I don't have?

If God asked me to **release** something, would I?

4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. James 5:4

Does how I use money prevent me from **paying my bills**?

#### Action Step:

Give **something** to God today.

5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. James 5:5

#### Faith that corrects our posture before God:

- Live with **restraint**, don't feed your flesh.

#### Three things James shows us:

Comfort can become a **competitor** to Christ.

Our appetites need **authority**.

Eternity should **govern** today.

#### Action Step:

Replace **a comfort** for time with God.

## VISION

## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What does the brevity of life in Psalm 90:12 and James 4:14 challenge you to rethink about how you spend your time?
- Why do you think we naturally live as though we have more time than we actually do?
- What is the difference between making plans with God and simply asking God to bless the plans we've already made?
- What would it look like for you to view your future through the lens of God's purpose rather than your personal preferences?
- Is there something you know God wants you to do that you've been delaying? What's keeping you from doing it?
- What does the way we spend our money reveal about what we truly value?
- When does enjoying God's blessings cross the line into allowing possessions or money to become our security?
- If God asked you to release something you're holding tightly, what would be hardest for you to surrender—and why?
- How can financial irresponsibility become a spiritual issue? What does faithful stewardship look like practically?
- If you genuinely lived with eternity in mind this week, what is one thing you would change about your time, money, priorities, or relationships?

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Today's Talk..



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Our Posture Before God**

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