



## “Making Plans.”

James 4:13-17

Week of July 19, 2020

### I. The Making of Human Plans

What is the general topic of James 4:13?

What is the specific task that is referred to at the end of James 4:13?

The word “business” here is a very general word that means to “buy or sell, to conduct trade and commerce”. How could this refer to our lives in general?

Think of the components of planning found in the concepts of when, where and what. How does James 4:13 address each of these?

What is your viewpoint of planning in your life?

What are the important things that you consider when you plan?

Why do plans need to have a time aspect connected to them?

How does the location of what you are trying to do impact your planning?

Do you agree with the statement from Ben Franklin, “By failing to plan, you are planning to fail.” Why or why not?

### II. The Reality of Life

What is the statement that James 4:14 starts with? How does this directly make a difference in our planning?

What are the human limitations that impact our planning?

Why can the first phrase of James 4:14 be so unsettling?

What does James 4:14 tell us about our own human existence?

Summarize the message of each of the following verses:  
Psalm 39:4, Psalm 144:3-4, Job 14:4-5

What do you see is the value of acknowledging that life is temporary and that we as humans are limited?

### III. The Making of Plans with God

What is the focus of James 4:15?

Why should we include the Lord’s will in our planning?

Describe the benefits of being in God’s will and doing God’s will.

What do the following verses tell us about God’s will and intention for our lives? Psalm 139:16, Ephesians 2:10

What are some of the negative misconceptions about God’s will found in the world today?

Why is not seeking God’s will for our lives described as “boasting in arrogance” in James 4:16? Why is this considered “evil boasting”?

How does James describe sin in James 4:17?

What reasons do we often give for not doing God’s will or as James 4:17 puts it — the good we ought to do?