**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Sad Case of the Boastful Businessman |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | James 4:13-17 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #0521 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. James 4:13-17
      1. In this passage, James addresses those who claim to believe in God but live as though there is no God.
         1. Psalm 14:1
      2. They live for self and self alone.
   2. James tells the story of a very shrewd businessman who made some astute plans, but he was a successful failure in the eyes of God.
      1. There are many today who are in the same boat as this first-century businessman.
   3. There are three specific things we need to notice about today’s Scripture.
2. an attitude that we should never take (James 4:13)
   1. We should never take an attitude of self-sufficiency.
   2. The man in this Scripture was very self-sufficient in his planning.
      1. He planned the period of time.
         1. He counted on his calendar.
         2. He planned what he was going to do the next year and did not ask God about it.
            1. He did not pray to the Lord about it.
            2. He just assumed that he had 365 days and that he would do what he wished in that time.
      2. He planned the place.
         1. He did not ask the Lord where He would have him to go.
         2. The man looked at his map, looked at the business trends and decided where he would go.
            1. He decided to go to the place that seemed wise to him.
      3. He planned the procedure.
         1. He was going to buy and sell; he was going to be a merchant.
         2. He studied the economic trends and was confident in his business plans.
      4. He planned the profits.
         1. This man was interested in profits, not prayers.
            1. He was not interested in Heavenly treasure.
         2. He was interested in earthly profits, and he had it all mapped out.
   3. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with what this man did.
      1. There is nothing wrong with planning.
      2. There is nothing wrong with going to a city.
      3. There is nothing wrong with business.
         1. The Bible encourages business and productivity.
            1. Romans 12:10-11
      4. There is nothing wrong with making a profit.
         1. The Bible teaches that it is alright and proper to make a profit.
   4. The problem is that this man did all of these things in a spirit of self-sufficiency.
      1. He boasted about what he was going to do.
         1. James 4:16
      2. He did not ask God about any of it.
         1. He made his plans apart from God.
      3. Many of us do the same thing, whether it be in business, in sports, in education, in marriage, etc.
   5. Many people plan their lives and make their decisions without consulting Almighty God.
      1. James says that we are practical atheists when we do this.
         1. We are living as though there is no God, even though we believe in God.
3. an assumption we should not make (james 4:14-15)
   1. We should not assume that we have tomorrow.
   2. James says that our lives are very fragile.
      1. There is only a heartbeat between us and eternity.
      2. We do not know when we are going to die.
      3. We are closer to death at this moment than we have ever been before.
         1. We live close to death.
            1. 1 Samuel 20:3
   3. Death is no respecter of persons.
      1. Old and young alike die.
   4. It was arrogant for this man in the book of James to say what he would do today or tomorrow.
      1. The Bible says that we don’t know what will happen tomorrow.
      2. Proverbs 27:1
      3. 1 Chronicles 29:15
      4. Job 7:6
      5. Psalm 39:5
      6. Psalm 102:3
      7. Psalm 102:11
   5. We should live as though this were our last day.
      1. Is there money you intend to give to the cause of Christ? Then, do it now.
      2. Is there someone you intend to witness to about the Lord Jesus Christ? Do it now.
      3. Are you saved? Do you know without a doubt that if you were to die today that you would go to Heaven?
         1. Get it settled today; turn to Jesus Christ, and receive Him as your Lord and Savior.
4. an activity we should never forsake (James 4:17)
   1. The sin of this boastful businessman was that he failed to do what he knew he ought to do.
      1. It’s not that what he was doing was wrong; it was simply wrong because it was not what God would have him to do.
         1. We can do wrong by doing wrong, and we can also do wrong by not doing right.
   2. Though a life may seem to be moral and successful, the sum total of a life without God is sin.
      1. That is, to live life without taking God into account.
      2. The Lord Jesus Christ did not bathe this world with His blood to have us serve the world, the flesh and the devil.
   3. The sin of omission is greater than the sin of commission.
      1. The greatest sin is to leave God out of our lives.
         1. A man may go to Hell for what he does, but he’ll miss Heaven because of what he doesn’t do.
      2. John 3:18
         1. It is failing to do what he ought to do (believing on the Lord Jesus Christ) that sends someone to Hell.
      3. No matter how good or productive we think we may be, victory is only found through faith in the crucified Son of God and His shed blood.
      4. What must we do to be saved?
         1. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. Acts 16:31
      5. What must we do to be lost?
         1. Nothing.
            1. Just stay as we are and leave God out of our lives.
   4. There are those who say they have never opposed Jesus, but they have neglected and forgotten Jesus.
   5. Matthew 12:30
5. CONCLUSION
   1. Has there been a time in your life when you bowed your knee to the Lord Jesus?
   2. Have you received Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior?
   3. 2 Corinthians 6:2
   4. Hebrews 3:15
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16