

SERMON OUTLINE

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

- a) James 4:13-17
 - i) In this passage, James addresses those who claim to believe in God but live as though there is no God.
 - (1) Psalm 14:1
 - ii) They live for self and self alone.
- b) 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.
 - i) There are many today who are in the same boat as this first-century businessman.
- c) There are three specific things we need to notice about today's Scripture.

2) AN ATTITUDE THAT WE SHOULD NEVER TAKE (JAMES 4:13)

- a) We should never take an attitude of self-sufficiency.
- b) The man in this Scripture was very self-sufficient in his planning.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) He did not pray to the Lord about it.
 - (b) He just assumed that he had 365 days and that he would do what he wished in that time.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) He decided to go to the place that seemed wise to him.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) He planned the profits.
 - (1) This man was interested in profits, not prayers.
 - (a) He was not interested in Heavenly treasure.
 - (2) He was interested in earthly profits, and he had it all mapped out.
- c) There is nothing intrinsically wrong with what this man did.
 - i) There is nothing wrong with planning.
 - ii) There is nothing wrong with going to a city.
 - iii) There is nothing wrong with business.
 - (1) The Bible encourages business and productivity.
 - (a) Romans 12:10-11
 - iv) There is nothing wrong with making a profit.
 - (1) The Bible teaches that it is alright and proper to make a profit.

- d) The problem is that this man did all of these things in a spirit of self-sufficiency.
 - i) He boasted about what he was going to do.
 - (1) James 4:16
 - ii) He did not ask God about any of it.
 - (1) He made his plans apart from God.
 - iii) Many of us do the same thing, whether it be in business, in sports, in education, in marriage, etc.
 - e) Many people plan their lives and make their decisions without consulting Almighty God.
 - i) 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)
- a) We should not assume that we have tomorrow.
 - b) James says that our lives are very fragile.
 - i) There is only a heartbeat between us and eternity.
 - ii) We do not know when we are going to die.
 - iii) We are closer to death at this moment than we have ever been before.
 - (1) We live close to death.
 - (a) 1 Samuel 20:3
 - c) Death is no respecter of persons.
 - i) Old and young alike die.
 - d) It was arrogant for this man in the book of James to say what he would do today or tomorrow.
 - i) The Bible says that we don't know what will happen tomorrow.
 - ii) Proverbs 27:1
 - iii) 1 Chronicles 29:15
 - iv) Job 7:6
 - v) Psalm 39:5
 - vi) Psalm 102:3
 - vii) Psalm 102:11
 - e) We should live as though this were our last day.
 - i) Is there money you intend to give to the cause of Christ? Then, do it now.
 - ii) Is there someone you intend to witness to about the Lord Jesus Christ? Do it now.
 - iii) 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)

- a) The sin of this boastful businessman was that he failed to do what he knew he ought to do.
 - i) 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.
- b) Though a life may seem to be moral and successful, the sum total of a life without God is sin.
 - i) That is, to live life without taking God into account.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus Christ did not bathe this world with His blood to have us serve the world, the flesh and the devil.
- c) The sin of omission is greater than the sin of commission.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) What must we do to be saved?
 - (1) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Acts 16:31
 - v) What must we do to be lost?
 - (1) Nothing.
 - (a) Just stay as we are and leave God out of our lives.
- d) There are those who say they have never opposed Jesus, but they have neglected and forgotten Jesus.
- e) Matthew 12:30

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Has there been a time in your life when you bowed your knee to the Lord Jesus?
- b) Have you received Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior?
- c) 2 Corinthians 6:2
- d) Hebrews 3:15
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16