

- ***Read Matthew 16:21-23*** As Jesus is preparing the Apostles for His betrayal, arrest, and death, Peter steps up to actually rebuke the Lord for what He is saying. Jesus quickly puts him in his place by reminding him that the way he was thinking was not the way that God thinks. It was God's plan for Jesus to suffer as He was going to, but Peter didn't see why that needed to take place. Peter and God were on different pages in respect to the way they were seeing things. It can be a great temptation for us to want to see and desire things differently from the way that God sees or desires or them to be.
- There are many ways in which we need to see as God sees, and one of those ways is found in **James 4:13-17**. In this Text, we learn exactly how God expects for us to see tomorrow. We are but a few days from the turning of the calendar to a new year. How is it that we view the turning of the calendar? How is it that we view tomorrow and the opportunities that it presents. This evening, I would like to answer this question by considering a few things that are mentioned in this Text by James.

I. Tomorrow is another day to be blessed by our Gracious God.

- A. James starts this section of writing by talking about those who are making plans for tomorrow. He mentions how they are planning on going and making a profit in the coming year. Now, James does quickly telling them to pump the brakes real quick, but it isn't because they were planning on being successful. In fact, God wants for His creation of mankind to be successful, so tomorrow is just another day for us to enjoy God's blessings.
- B. We must recognize that we get to enjoy this life and its blessings because God has given us the good things we have in this life. Earlier in the letter of James, we see James talking about the fact that God is the one that gives us the good and not the bad in this life. **(James 1:13-17)** Jesus makes the argument that if flawed man will give his child good things then wouldn't a perfectly loving God be willing to give good things to those who love and serve Him? **(Matthew 7:7-11)**
- C. Our Lord takes such good care of us. From our daily physical needs to our spiritual needs, our God is so good to us and each day that comes gives Him another day to show just how much He does cares for us.
- D. David was very aware of the blessings that he enjoyed, and he recognized that these things were a result of the great and gracious God that he served. **(Psa. 68:19,20)**

II. Tomorrow is another day to give glory and thanks to our Mighty God.

- A. Back in our Text of **James 4:13-17**, we go on to see why it is that James tells them to slow their roll. They were getting ahead of themselves and forgetting that God is the one who is in control and they need to keep Him in mind when they make their plans. They needed to take a minute to mention the Lord and give glory and thanks to Him for the opportunity to be blessed tomorrow because He is the giver of the blessings. **(vv.15,16)** The rich man failed to give thanks and boasted in himself, and was rebuked for such. **(Luke 12:16-21)**
- B. Paul, in **I Thessalonians 5:18**, reminds us that we need to be thankful in all things. Even if tomorrow brings us misfortune, we need to be a people who are thankful and gives thanks to God for being with us even if the days are bleak.
- C. Even just waking up in the morning is a blessing, and we shouldn't let much of the day pass before we take a few moments to give glory and thanks to God for what He does for us. We would do well to try to emulate the example of the writer of the **136th Psalm**. In everything we do, as we look forward to tomorrow, we need to remember that God is worthy of glory and appreciation for His many blessings.

III. Tomorrow is another day to serve God and others.

- A. Our first two points of this lesson really build up to this point and we see that in our main Text of **James 4:13-17**. Tomorrow is another day to enjoy God's blessings. Tomorrow is a day in which need to be thankful for those blessings, and then we need to turn around and use the blessing of tomorrow to serve God and others.
- B. True appreciation for what God has done for us is seen when we obey His will and use our blessings to serve others with what He has given to us. As we make our plans for tomorrow, we need to make sure that we plan on using the blessing of tomorrow to His glory and the good of others.
- C. As King David is dedicating the temple of the Lord, he takes a few moments to acknowledge how God has been to him and the people, he thanks God for the blessings, and then speaks to the good that would be done through the building of the Lord's temple. **(I Chronicles 29:10-20)**
- D. We should look toward tomorrow with an expectation that we will serve Him and others well.

IV. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

- A. We ought to see tomorrow as God sees it with it being another day for His blessings, to give thanks, and serve Him, but we must also keep in mind that before anything else...we must keep in mind that tomorrow is never a guarantee. **(v.14)**
- B. We can make all the plans and preparation for tomorrow, but we must remember that tomorrow may or may not come and that is completely out of our control. What is in our control is what we will do today. Sure we ought to make plans to do all of these things tomorrow, but we first must be sure to do the things we have discussed up to this point today. To serve God and other is firstly our responsibility today. We can plan to do such tomorrow, but we must do such today, first. **(Heb. 3:13)**
- C. Death, Jesus, any number of things might happen to prevent tomorrow from ever coming, but today is the day for us to make sure that we give God glory and thanks and that we serve Him and others well.
- D. To many people make plans to do good tomorrow. To many think that tomorrow is guarantee, but sadly some of those never see tomorrow. They may have said that they would give thanks tomorrow. They may have said that they would serve God tomorrow, but they're putting all of their eggs in a basket that make ever been seen.
- E. Again, think about the rich man from **Luke 12:16-21**. He thought he had all the time in the world to enjoy everything that he thought he had done for himself. Unfortunately for him...tomorrow never came. The wise man said in **Proverbs 27:1**, **"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."** We don't know for sure what tomorrow may bring, but we do know what we ought to do if that day comes. However, we must be sure to take care of business today because we might not have the chance to do what we need to do tomorrow.

James, through inspiration, teaches us just how it is that we ought to see tomorrow. Summed up, tomorrow is an opportunity. It's an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of God. It's an opportunity to praise and thank God. It's an opportunity to serve God and others. But we must keep in mind that some opportunities are never realized. They never come to past. Tomorrow isn't guaranteed, so we must be sure to do all of these things today. may God help us to see tomorrow as He intends. It is a great opportunity for good, but may we take care of first things first and make sure that today is used wisely and to His glory before all else.