



## Have You Left God Out? with Pastor Max Frazier

*James 4:13-5:6*

### **DON'T LEAVE GOD OUT OF YOUR PLANS**

*James 4:13-17*

In New Testament days, the Jews were among the great traders, and they were highly successful.

James is describing a group of businessmen who are planning on expanding their businesses.

Question: Is it wrong for a believer to make plans regarding the future?

Answer is "No!"

Story Jesus told in Luke 12:16-21

What went wrong?

He forgot to include God in his plans for the future; he focused only upon himself.

Not one of us knows what is going to happen tomorrow.

Tomorrow is part of that expanse of time about which only God has knowledge.

Because of this fact, I need to surrender tomorrow into the hands of God today.

James reminds us of the brevity of life.

We need to be careful with the planning of our lives – Psalm 90:12

Because of the brevity of life, we need to NOT leave God out of our planning for the future.

James reminds us that we need to be subservient to the will of God (*Acts 18:21; Acts 21:14*)

We are not to be terrorized into fear and paralyzed into inaction by the uncertainty of our future (*Psalm 37:3-4*)

### **DON'T LEAVE GOD OUT OF YOUR FINANCES**

*James 5:1-6*

James is NOT condemning the possession of money, for money itself is neither moral nor immoral.

Jesus both praised and condemned how money was used.

James is describing the response of the wicked who are wealthy.

He relates that a time of abject fear and terror is about to come.

The reason for that fear is the misuse of the wealth given to them by God.

Wealth that has become rotted – grain

Wealth that has become moth-eaten – clothes

Wealth that has become corroded – gold and silver

Verse 3 – James identifies the problem – the hoarding of wealth

They withheld wages from their workers.

They have lived an indulgent lifestyle.

They have protected their wealth, even to murdering others.

What are the lessons for us today?

Whatever wealth we have does not belong to us but is a gift from God to us; not to be stored away, but to be used to bring glory to God (*Ecclesiastes 5:18-20*)

Wealth-money-things are a gift to us from God. And we discover that “gladness of heart” when we enjoy those things, that wealth, and help others to enjoy it as well.

### **A CHALLENGE**

Perhaps it is time to do an inventory of our lives:

Have we left God out?

Have we made plans and never sought God’s direction?

Have we used our wealth and never asked how God would have wanted us to use it?

It is dangerous to make plans and then come to God and ask for His approval.

It is better for us to just surrender ourselves to Him and then accept what He has planned for us.

We are to be wise stewards of our time and of our wealth and possessions.

