

STRAIGHT TALK

Part 11: Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals - James 4:13-5:6

Bad Influence #1: Living a PRESUMPTUOUS life	4:13-17
Living as if you're in control of your FUTURE	vs. 13
The truth about your life- it's a MIST	vs. 14
The proper perspective – God is SOVEREIGN	vs. 15
The improper attitude – Boastful ARROGANCE	vs. 16-17
Bad influence #2: Living a FRAUDULENT life	5:1-6
Living as wealth HOARDERS	vs. 1-3
Money is to be carried with an OPEN HAND , not a TIGHT FIST	
Living as labor EXPLOITERS	vs. 4
Living as luxury CONSUMERS	vs. 5
Money is a TOOL , not a TROPHY	
Living as people CONDEMNERS	vs. 6

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 23rd, 2025

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 23, 2025

James 4:13-14 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

DISCOVER (read James 4:13 to 5:6)

1. Are you a long-range planner or do you take one day at a time? Illustrate by imagining you won the lottery. How would you spend the first \$100,000?
2. What's the matter with being rich? How is being rich a blessing? How is it a curse? Don't rich people normally have fewer miseries than most people? Explain.
3. Has God ever convicted you because you were a bad influence on another? How so? Does that conviction ebb over time if you are often with that person? Does the conviction ebb faster if that person is also difficult for you? Why do you think that is?
4. If you are rich, do you think it's OK to live luxuriously? Why or why not?
5. Think back to the last time you made a big decision. How much time did you spend with God? Did you hear His response or did you hear what you wanted to hear? How did you know which one? What makes hearing God so difficult?

EXPLORE

1. What does the expression "Come now." mean? Why does James use it and why did he say it twice? (vv. 4:13 and 5:1) Is the phrase used in the same way? Explain.
2. What's the difference between making business plans to make a profit versus moving to location X for one year to start 5 bible studies and train leaders? Is the latter a better decision because it's a spiritual one? Why or why not? What's the problem with making plans on our own?
3. What role do unbelievers have in church? How do you welcome unbelievers but still guard against their ungodly influences? Identify specific influences that damage or corrupt the church.
4. As believers in Christ, we are automatically leaders in the world. Why is this a fact? Being a leader automatically means you have influence. In what ways are you negligent of your influence and responsibilities as the Christian leader God has made you?

EXPERIENCE

1. Of course, we should use our time on earth to build God's kingdom. Prayerfully write out a ministry plan detailing some short- and long-term goals of how you will use your spiritual gifts for serving God.
2. The following are test questions to help you discern if you are too concerned about money. For each one, write down your plan to counteract it and share it with someone you trust in your Life Group (accountability partner).
 - Often thinking about money and how to make more.
 - Comparing your income or possessions with others' income and possessions.
 - Finding it hard to give to God (including tithes) and other people.
 - Often scheming about how to get a promotion at work.
 - Finding it a thrill to purchase an expensive item because you can.

PRAY

Our Gracious God and Father, I am prone to wander and to entertain bad company that corrupts my character. Bless me with the discernment to not only set boundaries but the ability to know when they are threatened or compromised. In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen.