



James 4 v13-17
Boasting about Tomorrow
Jon Hopkins
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Background: previous section had seen James address the issue of pride which manifested itself through judging others. In this section pride takes a different form, it displays itself when individuals make presumptions about their own lives (presumptions which don't include/involve God).

1) Recap v 13 + 16: look at what filled the minds of the people James described, their arrogance appeared in 5 ways (their own plans; the idea of "the place" to be; the period of time to go for; what they would do; aim – making money).

In pairs or small groups

Reflect with each other about plans/decisions that you made in the past in your life:

- a) How did you make your plans, how did you arrive at the decisions you reached?
- b) What part did God play in your planning (be honest!)?
- c) What did you think you did well in your planning, what could you have done better?

Feedback to the group.

2) James goes on in v14-15 to challenge attitudes and teach about the importance of being in God's will.

Remember Jesus' example of praying to seek God before decisions e.g. selecting disciples etc. Go round the group and share on the following:

- d) Do you build in "pauses" into your life to either stop or commit your days/weeks/plans to God. If so when works well for you? If not when could you?
- e) What decisions/plans/help do you need to seek God for:
 - i) this week?
 - ii) the coming months?

Pray for one another to be in step with God's will!