

## Conclusion

If you have genuine faith, then your life will show it.

Where are you laying up treasure?

- (Mark 10:21) And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”
- (Matt. 13:44) “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

What are you boasting in?

- (1 Cor. 1:26–31) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

## Arrogant Over Nothing

James 4:13 - 5:6

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### Introduction

Main theme of James: If you have genuine faith, then your life will show it. (See James 2:14)

We have an illusion of control.

Recap of verses 11-12:

### Boasting About Tomorrow

v13-17

1. What do we know of the future? (v13-14)

- (Prov. 27:1) Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
- (Prov. 19:21) Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.
- (Is. 46:10) declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’
- (Rev. 1:8) “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

2. What is your life? (v14)

- (James 1:10) and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.
- (Psa. 39:5) Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

3. Is it wrong to make plans?

- (Psa. 20:4) May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans!
- (Prov. 15:22) Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.
- (Prov. 16:3) Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

4. What is the right perspective to have? (v15-16)
- (Prov. 19:21) Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.
  - (Acts 18:21) But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus. (See also Rom. 1:10, 15:32; 1Cor. 4:19, 16:7; Heb. 6:3)

5. What are we really boasting in? (v16)

- 'evil'
- (Eccl. 10:14) A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him?

6. What is the right thing to do? (v17)

- (Luke 12:47) And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. (See Luke 9:11-27; 2 Pet. 2:21, John 9:41; Matt. 25:31-46)

**Boasting About Wealth and Power**

v1-6

7. A prophetic warning (v1)

- (Amos 6:6, 8) who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! [... The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."
- (Matt. 25:41) "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

8. What happened to the riches? (v2-3)

- (Luke 12:18-20) And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

9. What do the rich and powerful tend to do? (v4-6)

- (1 Tim. 6:9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.
- (Luke 16:25) But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.'

10. Is it wrong to have wealth or power?

- (Psa. 112:3) Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.
- (Prov. 3:9-10) Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce then your barns will be filled with plenty...

11. What are we really boasting in?

- (Prov. 11:4) Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
- (Psa. 50:10) For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
- (Acts 12:23) Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
- (Prov. 21:1) The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

12. What is the right perspective to have? (v3b)

- (1 Tim. 6:18) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,
- (1 Kings 3:9) Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"
- (Matt. 6:19-21) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."