Claim Your Dependence

James 4:13-17

Sermon Outline

A. Independence (vs. 13-14):

1. **Come now** – James is making reference to a person who is commanding someone to take immediate action that is continuous in a particular direction.
2. **Come now** – Making decisions independent of God is not wise.
3. **Come now** – Making decisions with no consideration for the Word is not faith (James 2:14-26).
4. **We will go** – Making plans without God’s direction is high risk (John 15:5).
5. **Spend** – These individuals plans are to create an event that is totally based on their plans and actions with a mindset that it will get done.
6. **Make a profit** – These plans, once they go for a particular distance, is to invest in a business with the intent and expectation that they would gain more than they put into it.

6. **You do not know** – Those making the plans and organizing the business continuously do not all by themselves have the information or the understanding that allows them to continuously gain insight as to what the results will be. They have the freedom to make the plans, but they cannot control the results.

7. **What your life** – No matter how careful the plans are developed no one understands or has a knowledge of how their relationship with Jesus Christ will turn out.

8. **What your life** – No one can determine what the quality of their life will be (Luke 12:14-21). They cannot determine how long they live, whether they will be happy or not or have a great family life as a result of that they gained.

9. **What your life** – No matter how effectively and productive the plans maybe no one can determine if their steadfastness to their plans no matter their struggles will provide “the Crowd of Life” (James 1:12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15). The “crown that offers life” is also an eschatological promise of reward (Prov 1:9; 4:9; 12:4; 16:31; 17:6).

   a) We cannot determine if our decisions stimulate blessings from God.

   b) We cannot determine if our decisions provide eternal blessings.
10. **You are a vapor** - The reason why James can make this point is because everyone’s life is like a vapor.

11. **Appeared** — Everyone is like a vapor because though our existence is continuously evident it does not last.

12. **Vanishes away** – We continuously are either destroyed are no longer visible or no longer exist.

13. **Vanishes away** – Only what we do for Christ is guaranteed to last (1 Cor. 15:58).

**B. Our Dependence (vs. 15-17):**

1. **You ought to say** – Here is the mindset that demonstrates trust in God.

2. **Say** – Instead of constantly planning in the manner above we ought to continuously communicate in the manner outlined in this verse (Matthew 6:34).

3. **If the Lord wills** – Respect must be given to whether or not the Lord, who has all authority and power, desires to empower and sustain our plans.

4. **If the Lord wills** – The Lord who has all authority and power must be recognized by respecting whether or not these are His purposes for our lives.

5. **If the Lord wills** – We must show a level of dependence on the power and authority of God as to whether or not God would create out nothing what it takes to bring our plans into place (Proverbs 16:9).

6. **If the Lord wills** – We must consider if our plans violate or are within God’s Word.

7. **If the Lord wills** – Our dependence on God is demonstrated by our prayer life (James 1:5-6).

8. **Live - Zao** – It is up to the power and authority of God whether our day to day lives or intentions are sustained.

9. **Live - Zao** – It is up to God whether we live or die (Psalm 27:1).

10. **Also do this or that** - To do this or that is to seek to make plans as if we can function independent of the will and ability of God.

11. **As it is you boast** – Instead of demonstrating a complete dependence on God they continuously expressed a high degree of confidence while bragging with a sense of pride in their ability to complete their well-designed plans (Psalm 27:1).
12. **You boast** – We must not trust in our own abilities to grant us success.

13. **Arrogance** – They not only bragged about what they were going to accomplish they possessed pride and a haughty spirit. They believe that based on their abilities they were capable of getting things done.

14. **Arrogance** – A haughty spirit make a person an enemy of God (James 4:6).

15. **Such boast is evil** – To take pride in the manner described in this verse causes distress, is worthless and violates the Word of God. Its nature is Satanic.

16. **Such boast is evil** – To boast is to willfully violate God’s Word while demanding God’s response.

17. **Such boast is evil** – To boast is to take credit from what God has done (Matthew 19:17).

18. **To the one who knows; see** – This is a person who has a full divine knowledge as well as a complete experience of what is right and understands what doing the right thing means.

19. **Right thing; good** — This is a person who has a complete understanding of what is honest or knows what is the ethical thing to do.

20. **Right thing; good** – If all a person knows is what is the right thing to do they are held accountable.

21. **To do/ to practice** – The person who completely knows what is the ethical thing to do can on their own initiative continuously practice what is right.

22. **And does not do it** - This is a person who completely understands what is honest ethical thing to do but willfully decided to act independently from God and not practice these actions.

23. **It is sin** - This person who intentionally, purposefully decides to not do what they completely understand is the honest ethical thing to do has willfully sinned against God.

25. **It is sin** – Whether this person knows all the Bible verses or not they have willfully disobeyed God.

26. **It is sin** – Living a life of sin is to be a listener, faithless, and unwise (James 1:21-25, 8-13; 2:18-20; 3:14-16).

27. **We are totally dependent on God** for wisdom, faith and blessings (James 1:5-7; 3:13, 16-17; 4:7-10).