
[SERMON NOTES]

Will and Testimony - (James 4:13 -5:11)

Make decisions based on _____. (James 4:13-17)

Your _____ make a statement. (James 5:1-6, 1 Timothy 6:9, Psalm 127:7)

Riches _____ and _____.

Following _____ will is a _____ issue. (James 5:7-11, 4:7-10)

What is God's will for my life? To _____ up the Kingdom of _____.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We all have probably faked something at some point or another. *Did you ever fake something to get out of doing something? If so, what was it? And did you get away with it?*

This week's passage in James continued the call to not fake our way through our faith in Jesus. The letter shifted our attention to considering *who* we believe is in control of our life and how things, like our money, may reveal *who's will* we are pursuing in life. *If you had to pick 3 words that represent someone who is following God's will for their life - what would those 3 words be and why? (consider reading James 4:7-5:11 for guidance)*

1.

2.

3.

[DIGGING DEEPER]

The end of chapter 4, if not read carefully, may come across as harsh, insensitive, or impractical. (What do you mean it's wrong to have a business plan?!?!) A second look reveals that not only was God missing from their life's plan, but a heavy reliance on self instead of God's control (sometimes we call this "sovereignty"). James encourages the readers of his letter to see how God's sovereignty ought to change our way of life. *How does trusting in God's complete control of the universe set up following His will for our life instead of our own?*

James continues the idea of God's control compared to our brevity of life by calling us a "mist." King Solomon used this same idea in **Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**. Read this passage. Reflect and respond to this thought: *"The most uncomfortable part of our uncomfortable reality is that life is short... and that is actually a spiritually good place to be."* - Timothy Keller

In the message from this past week, we shared that following God's will is a heart issue, not an issue with our means. *What are some ways your heart gets in the way of following God's will?*

James was quick to point out that money is a big idol that sits on the throne of our heart before Jesus. The remedy for this is to learn to be *content*. **Read these passages:** Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:9, Psalm 127:1.

Based on what you read above - what does Biblical contentment look like?

[TAKING IT HOME]

Pursuing contentment is easier said than done. Thankfully, Jesus' grace is given to us despite the strongholds in our hearts we have yet to surrender. *What is one area and way you can pursue contentment or following God's will deeper this week?*