



10. When God scribbles on your plans

James 4:13-16

- Do you plan? How do you react to disrupted plans?
- Christians should plan and react differently from world around them
- Problem is not planning, but overconfident planning without God v13.
- James has 3 needles to burst independent planning

1. **Life is unpredictable – so hold your plans loosely**

- v13 ‘business’ – God is to be involved in all our lives/plans/dreams/ambitions
- **Needle 1** “You don’t even know about tomorrow” v14
 - We need to humbly remember the uncertainty of life
 - Sounds like his brother Jesus – Luke 12:16-20
- **Mature Christian response – Hold God tightly & your plans loosely**
 - Our plans aren’t to define us. Our security is to come from God, not our goals
 - Guards us from frustrations in the moments; despair in our disappointments; and bitterness in our lifetimes.

2. **Life is short – so plan things that last**

- **Needle 2** “What is your life? You are a mist” v14
 - Life is short and insubstantial. We will soon be gone (Ps 90:10)
 - If one error is over-confident planning, another is a failure to plan, and so to achieve nothing that lasts
- **Mature Christian response – Plan things that last**
 - Not just the non-Christian, but also the Christian
 - What are you doing that lasts? What are you investing yourself in? See Luke 16:9
 - Children, church, prayer, witness, godliness. Ps 90:17 “Establish our hand’s work”

3. **Life is dependent – so place your plans in God’s hands**

- **Needle 3** “Your will isn’t final” v15
 - We are able to plan, but pride in our plans is dangerous v16
 - Jesus didn’t die so we could be self-sufficient; he died because we thought we were!
- **Mature Christian response – Place your plans in God’s hands**
 - Don’t have to add *DV* or *God willing* superstitiously after everything
 - Remember God’s wisdom, sovereignty and goodness. Cultivate trust.
 - If he scribbles on your plans, it’s because he knows best.
 - A reminder of Jesus who trusted his Father’s will completely - Matt 26:39
 - How we plan and react is a measure of how much we have grasped the gospel

- Do your plans reflect your Saviour’s values?
- Do your reactions display your trust?



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