

JAMES: BUILDING A FAITH THAT WORKS

JAMES 4:13-5:6 | OCTOBER 26, 2025

PASTOR JASON UPTMORE

PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." ¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." ¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. ⁵ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

REFLECT/CONNECT

- When you think about the future, are you more of a planner or do you prefer to go with the flow?
- Who's someone you know that models generosity or contentment well? What stands out to you about how they live?

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer, or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Father Son Campout

NOVEMBER 7 - 8

Equip Moms

NOVEMBER 11 | 7 PM

Echo Weekend

NOVEMBER 21-23

Some events have registration requirements/deadlines, so be sure to check our website or app for more information and registration.



GROW IN THE WORD

James addresses those who confidently make business plans for the future without first considering God's will. He reminds them that life is brief, like a vapor in the wind that vanishes quickly. He instructs them to make plans with humility and to acknowledge God's sovereignty in their planning. James warns against arrogant presumption and declares that knowing the right thing to do but failing to do it is sin (v. 4:13-17).

- Why do you think James warns against making plans without first acknowledging God's sovereignty? How does this attitude reveal pride or arrogance? See also Proverbs 16:1-3, 9; Luke 12:16-21.
- What does verse 15 teach you about how to hold your plans with humility and in submission to God's will?
- How might remembering the brevity of life change the way you approach both daily decisions and long-term goals? Consider also Psalm 90:12; Psalm 39:4-5.

James rebukes the wealthy who misuse their resources and exploit others for personal gain. He warns them that their treasures will decay and testify against them, exposing the vanity of hoarding their wealth. He condemns those who withhold proper pay, and those who live in luxury while ignoring the poor and needy. James warns that they will face God's righteous judgment (v. 5:1-6).

- What specific injustices does James address in these verses, and how are they connected to earthly riches? See also Matthew 6:19-24.
- How can you guard your heart against the subtle ways that greed and the pursuit of wealth can take control?
- What does faithful stewardship look like in light of James' warnings? In other words, how can wealth, time, or influence be used to serve rather than exploit others?



PRACTICE TOGETHER

- This week, as you plan or make decisions, pause to pray, "If the Lord wills". Invite God into your scheduling, your goals, and your financial decisions as an act of humility and dependence.
- As a group or family, look for a tangible way to use your resources, money, time, or skills, to bless someone in need or to support a cause that reflects God's heart for justice and mercy.

This section provides an easy way to live out the truths of the passage in daily life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

