

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 4:13-17

Lesson #19

Our Plans and God's

07/11/2021

Bane

Batman's foe in
"The Dark Knight"



"To create despair
you need hope."

1

James 4:13-17

*When God does not
follow our plans
what do we do?*

2

"Hope is essential

for joy



**and
despair."**

3

Consider

Adam & Eve Job

Abraham Joseph David

Moses John the Baptist

JESUS James

Stephen Paul Peter

**The first century church
and most of what followed**

4

Psalms 37:4

"Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will
give you **the desires of your heart.**"

What is the desire of our heart?

**Peace (harmony)
with God, myself,
others, and the
world.**

5

Psalm 37:4

"Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you **the desires of your heart.**"

What is the desire of our heart?



A superficial hope as shaped by the world.

A protective shield from suffering.

Faith that a loving God would grant it.

6

A "worry - whine" briefing



- ✓ Worry is what we do **before** our plans are frustrated and whining is what we do **after**.
- ✓ They are both tied more to hope and expectations **than to faith and peace**.
- ✓ Worry and whining don't help unless **they lead us to a renewed mind.**

7

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

This is what we should know

Life's trials contain hidden blessings.

1:1-18

Transition verse

James 1:19

This is what we should do

"quick to hear"
"Listen up"

1:19-2:13

"slow to speak"
"Shut up"

2:14-3:12

"slow to anger"
"Cool it"

3:13-5:20

Our attachments

define our security, significance, peace, joy, & hope, as well as our sorrow, despair, & conflict.

8

When God spoils our plans

James 4

"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."

9

James 4

"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.'"

1. Like Eve, we exercise freedom to make plans that we feel will prosper us and give us peace.

"If you want to make God laugh, **show Him your plans.**"

"Preparation is necessary, **plans are dangerous.**"

10

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Don't "lord it over" God's people (4:11-12) **or God's plans (4:13-17).**

11

“Yes, but God has revealed
HIS will to me.”

“All I have to do is trust and
obey and get out of the way.”

Get out of the way at the FRONT END
not the back end of the planning.



Be quick to listen to the right
voices, wisely discern the
Scripture, and **be humble**
in rushing to conclusions.

12

John 15:7

“If you abide in Me, and My words
abide in you, ask whatever you
wish, and it shall be done for you.”

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill,
and destroy; I came that they might have
life, and might have
it abundantly.”



But how are we to
understand **abiding**
and **abundance**?

13

James 4

“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.”

2. Wisdom calls me to make peace with what I
KNOW and DON'T know.

God does not anoint my circumstances
so much as my response to them.

Temporal circumstances will come and go
but my response to them will define my
witness and destiny going forward.

14

James 4

“15 Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills,
we will live and also do this or that.”

3. Faith, is often trusting God in the dark
rather than trusting Him to grant our wishes.

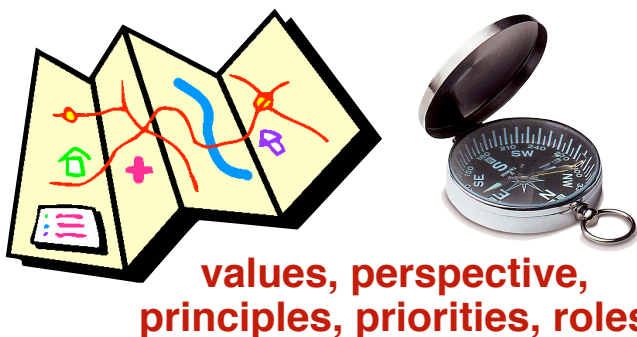
God directs us.
We don't direct God.

God sets the direction,
nature provides the road,
and **we follow Jesus as we**
walk the way of the Cross.

15

Common MISTAKES we make

1. We expect a road map
but God gives us a compass.



values, perspective,
principles, priorities, roles

16

Common MISTAKES we make

1. We expect a road map
but God gives us a compass.

2. We seek special revelation
but God renews our mind.

3. We read the Scripture as a rule
book or a crystal ball
but God shows us Jesus.

4. We place our faith in faith
but God reminds us that even the
Demons believe (Jas.2:19).

17

Acts 16:10

"And when **we** had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go into Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us** to preach the gospel to them."

Acts 15:28-29

"For it **seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than . . ."

I Cor. 7:39-40

"A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she **is free to be married to whom she wishes**, only in the Lord. But in **my opinion** she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God."

18



James 4

"¹⁶ But as it is, you **boast in your arrogance**; all such boasting is evil."

4. Presumption (with or without faith) is sinful.

Faith is not a virtue if it is in the wrong source and for the wrong things.

Colossians 2:18

"Take care that no one keeps defrauding you of your prize (**pass judgment against**) by delighting in humility and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on **visions** he has seen, inflated (**confident**) without cause by his **fleshly mind**,"

19

James 4

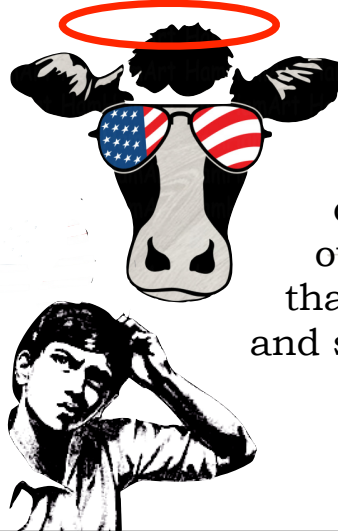
"¹⁷ Therefore, to one who **knows the right thing to do** and does not do it, to him it is sin."

5. The clear principles and priorities of God's kingdom should guide us and not be ignored.

Major on majors, minor on minors.

- The **Way of the Cross** as taught and illustrated by Jesus and the Apostles.
- Don't let minor issues **blind you** from seeing the fundamental issues in theology, ethics, and ministry.

20



Sacred Cows

are questionable values that are so deeply embedded in our lives and culture that they are assumed and seldom challenged."

21

When politics becomes fundamental to our faith:

Are we seeing ourselves as aliens in America?


Are we ambassadors for the right kingdom, in the right way, and at the right time?

22

The American God

1. Looks like **Uncle Sam**, acts like **mother nature**, and keeps score like **Santa Clause**.
2. Sees America as **God's embassy** on earth.
3. Defines "**freedoms**" and identifies "**fears**" in temporal, material, political, terms.
4. Commissions Christians to "**make America great**" by establishing a kingdom before its time and without its King.
5. The **American dream** is to be God's kingdom on earth - liberty, justice, prosperity, security, & peace.

23



**ARE WE
settling for a
paper ROSE**

*without
thorns OR
ROOTS!*

24

Remember

- ✓ God desires to save us but not our plans.
- ✓ God's plans give us a compass more than a road map.
- ✓ Satan is a promoter of hope in anything but God's plan.
- ✓ We too often view the fulfillment of our plans as the assurance of:
 - God's love for us
 - or affirmation of our faith.

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A closing word

1. Prepare a response for when and if **OUR** expectations fail.
When God interrupts take it as a challenge to become wiser, stronger, and a brighter light to this world.
2. Concentrate on being faithful to values, and flexible with plans.
Conflict is an opportunity for an inner spiritual audit.

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How can I develop realistic expectations?

- ✓ Start by thinking - **development and demonstration of Christian character and community** as God's clear will.
- ✓ Focus on a Godly **response** more than knowing and working a detailed plan.



- ✓ Remember that we see as in a mirror **dimly**.

27

James 4:13-17

***When God does not
follow our plans
listen & follow
His.***

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