



A Christian Who Is Led By God

MAIN THING

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble

SCRIPTURE

James 4, Matthew 6:34

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had a time when you knew what the best decision to make was, but still didn't do it? How did that turn out?

OPENING THOUGHT

Anger is caused by not getting what we want. James reveals that there is a constant battle going on between what we want and what God wants for us. God opposes plans that are not of Him, but He leads and blesses those who are led by Him. We are not to boast about tomorrow, about our ambitions and goals and plans, but we are to ask for His leadership and guidance. The Christian who is led by God will see an amazing amount of fruitfulness in life. If we approach Him in humility, He will lift us up. If we follow the path that He lays out for us, we will avoid so many pitfalls, setbacks, problems, and issues created by doing things our own way. It's the wise person who realizes that God's ways are best.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Is there anything more frustrating than a person who throws a fit when they don't get what they want? Read James 4:1-6. What does this Scripture say about that mindset? How does God handle that?
3. How would you describe humility? It seems that God really desires humility from His followers. What do vs. 7-10 say about that? Why, do you think, is humility so important to God?

LIFE APPLICATION

As Americans, we like to plan for our future, our children's future, and our grandchildren's future. In and of itself, this isn't wrong. Where the problem sets in is when we don't take on today, and we only focus on the future. In verses 13-17, James tells us we aren't guaranteed tomorrow. Matthew 6:34 says tomorrow will have problems of its own. Do you find it hard to be present today? Do you spend all your time focusing on what is coming, and not what is right in front of you? Remember, there is no promise of tomorrow. Live your life to the fullest today! Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

CHALLENGE

It is so easy to point out the problems in others while dealing with problems of our own. Verses 11-12 talk about this. Sometimes, in our prayer times as a group, we can sound very judgmental with our "requests". Ministers have long known about, what we all call, prayer gossip. It's all about the way we sometimes deliver our requests. We can, occasionally, share information about someone's "problems" in the form of a prayer request, but it's really just judgement and gossip. As a group, always avoid this kind of poison in your group's prayer times.