

More Than A Belief: Following Jesus in Real Life

“Following Jesus By Being Led”

James 4:13-17

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“¹³ Look here, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.’ ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, ‘If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.’ ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” James 4:13-17 (NLT)

When it comes to being led by Jesus, we have three choices.

1. As a follower of Jesus we have the choice to _____ His lead.

- Life is short; _____.

“For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow.” Job 8:9 (NLT)

“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” Psalm 90:12 (NLT)

- Life is short; _____.

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

2. As a follower of Jesus we have the choice to _____ His lead.

“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” James 4:17 (NLT)

- The core of disobedience is _____.

“...you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.” James 4:16 (NLT)

3. As a follower of Jesus we have the choice to _____ His lead.

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“What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” James 4:15 (NLT)

Benefits of following God’s lead

• _____

“Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35 (NLT)

• _____

“Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own.” John 7:17 (NLT)

• _____

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

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Discussion Questions

Begin your discussion by reading through James 4:13-17.

1. Life is too short to ignore God’s will for you. What does it look like to invest your life wisely? What does it mean to seek God earnestly? What are some practical ways you can do that?
2. Read Proverbs 16:18 and James 4:16. Why is pride so dangerous when it comes to following Jesus? Share a time in which you experienced the negative effects of pride.
3. Share a time in which obeying God’s lead in your life was difficult but chose to do so anyway. What blessing came from that decision?
4. Discuss the three benefits of following God’s lead. How have you experienced each of them?

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