

15. If we are convinced that we, and others, are a vanishing mist not knowing what tomorrow will bring (v14) and that there is a lawgiver and judge (v12) how should that affect our lives?

16. Looking back to chapter 4 verse 10 how should humbling ourselves before the Lord especially help us in living by what James writes in verses 13 to 17?

Pray

Pray for our fellowship together at St James that we would be motivated by the sort of things identified in question 4 and that we would make sure that we don't speak evil against one another or judge one another.

Pray for those situations, in churches, families, communities and nations where malicious talk, gossip and so on have created divisions, hatred and hurt.

Pray for Paul and Lara McNally and their family as Paul is ordained as a Deacon and begins his ministry in Accrington.

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James

Week 7 : Lacking Humility



Speaking Evil

Read James 4.11-12

The letter turns again to our speech, this time speaking evil against one another.

1. Do these verses mean that when a fellow believer is sinning we should turn a blind eye and just let everyone do what is right in their own eyes?

2. Look forward to James 5.19-20. What are we supposed to do when someone is sinning?

Most of the letters of the New Testament, including James, include rebuke and correction. Sometimes individuals are named and shamed.

3. What do you think is meant by saying "do not speak evil against one another" and "but who are you to judge your neighbour?" What particular things shouldn't we do?

4. What things have we already seen in this letter about positive Christian conduct which, if followed, would affect how we respond to one another?

5. What do you think it means to say that to speak evil against a brother is to speak evil against the law and to judge the law?

6. Why should the fact that there is only one lawgiver and judge make us concerned not to be a judge of the law but a doer of the law?

7. Why does the fact that there is a lawgiver and judge mean that we should be concerned for others, as James was?

8. Looking back to chapter 4 verse 10 how should humbling ourselves before the Lord especially help us in living by what James writes in verses 11 to 12?

If the Lord wills

Read James 4.13-17

9. If you knew the day of your death would your attitude to life be different? If so, in what ways?

10. James likens our lives to mist which appears for a little time and then vanishes. Can you think of other Biblical pictures which convey the same truth?

11. Is James saying we shouldn't plan at all because we don't know what tomorrow holds? (Explain your answer.)

12. How does this attitude towards the future relate to the idea of humility which we have seen in previous studies?

13. James is writing firstly to those planning a new business venture. Today such a plan would probably follow much market research, cost analysis and so on. What difference might such teaching make in a business venture today?

14. What does the instruction in verse 15 mean in practice? Is it good to get into the habit of saying something along these lines? Is it more than just words?