

## The Brief Nature of Life, Our Mist-like Existence ...

- (James 4:14b ESV) What is your life? For **you are a mist** that appears for a little time and then vanishes.
- (Job 7:16b ESV) Leave me alone, for **my days are a breath**.
- (Psalm 39:5 NKJV) Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; **Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor**. Selah.
- (Psalm 39:11 NASB95) With reproofs You chasten a man for iniquity; You consume as a moth what is precious to him; **Surely every man is a mere breath**. Selah.
- (Psalm 62:9 ESV) Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; **they are together lighter than a breath**.
- (Psalm 102:11 ESV) **My days are like an evening shadow**; I wither away like grass.
- (Psalm 103:14-16 ESV) **For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust**. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- (Psalm 144:3-4 ESV) O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? **Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow**.

## DECISIONS AND THE WILL OF THE LORD!

We decide on our own.	We look to God before deciding what to do.
<u>Us</u> —live on the earth and are like grasshoppers. (Isaiah 40:22)	<u>God</u> —sits above the circle of the earth. (Isaiah 40:22)
<u>Us</u> —lives are like a mist, here then gone. (James 4:14)	<u>God</u> —eternal, reigns forever. (Psalm 45:6)
<u>Us</u> —we traded the glory of God for human images and the truth of God for a lie. (Romans 1:23, 25)	<u>God</u> —his wisdom and knowledge have no end and his ways are unfathomable. (Romans 11:33)
<u>Us</u> —basically dust. (Psalm 103:14)	<u>God</u> —the blessed and only Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15)
<u>Us</u> —our days are like a passing shadow. (Psalm 144:4)	<u>God</u> —immortal, dwells in unapproachable light. (1 Timothy 6:16)
<u>Us</u> —we were dead. (Ephesians 2:1)	<u>God</u> —made us alive. (Ephesians 2:5)
<u>Us</u> —we were dwelling in great darkness. (Matthew 4:16)	<u>God</u> —called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
etc ...	etc ...

## OUTLINE FOR JAMES 4:13-17 ...

### (1) Announcing plans for the future without seeking the Lord's will is absurd, utter nonsense, 4:13-15.

—We may, or may not, be here tomorrow. We should make any plans keeping in mind that our lives are in God's hands.

### (2) Announcing our plans for the future without seeking our Lord's will is evil, 4:16.

—Our arrogance is the source of this boastful announcement and blinds us to what should be a very obvious fact of life with God.

All forms and varieties of this boasting are evil.

### (3) Intentionally leaving the Lord out of our plans is sin, 4:16.

This principle is applicable in other situations, but it is specific to our text and to the point that James is making. The sin that

James speaks to is the refusal to acknowledge God in our plans.

### **CONCLUSION: Never forget ...**

- How frail and temporary we are. (And sometimes stupid and sinful. Sorry.)
- How that weak means strong in Jesus terms.
- How much God loves weak, frail, sinful, temporary humans.

*(God really loves us. Keep reading. See below.)*

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, [VERY HIGH] so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; [VERY GREAT]

As far as the east is from the west, [VERY FAR] so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

(Psalm 103:11-13 ESV)