



## “Life, Liberty, and Happiness”

### Week 10: James 4:13-5:6

#### Read passage together.

James ends chapter 4 and starts chapter 5 with the same words, “Now listen”. This should tell us that what James has to say is extremely important. As Americans, we were taught about the “American Dream” which comes from the Declaration of Independence. It states: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”* In other words, we are guaranteed life and liberty (freedom), but the pursuit of happiness is on you! At an early age we began to make plans for our life. What we will be, how big of a family we want, and what kind of car or home we will have. Making plans are not bad, but making them without God could be disastrous. What James teaches us is that life, liberty and happiness does not come from anything this world can give. Only true life, true freedom and joy comes from Jesus.

#### Questions:

1. What were your plans when you finished High School versus what is actually taking place? Are you where you thought you would be?
2. Do you seek God’s guidance when making plans, or do you tend to rely on your own understanding?
3. James compares life to a mist that appears briefly and vanishes. How does reflecting on the uncertainty of life influence your priorities?
4. Are there ways in which you need to shift your focus from temporary pursuits (wealth, success, etc.) to things that have eternal value?
5. In what areas of your life do you need to surrender control in order to experience the true freedom and happiness that comes from trusting God’s plan?
6. What are some things that maybe brought you happiness for a short time but eventually left you unfulfilled or unhappy?
7. If you could do anything for the glory of God and knew it wouldn’t fail, what would you do?
8. Why aren’t you doing it?
9. What is your next step with Jesus?

#### Important announcements:

- Heart and Soul session 1 starts Oct. 6th at 4pm at the 144. Please contact Pastor Stanley if you would like to become Heart and Soul with Jesus, His Church and His mission.
- Recovery Jam was been rescheduled to Oct. 13th at the Toombsboro park from 4pm-8pm. Please get the word out!
- Invite 3 unchurched people to church this week! Live on mission!