

Word For The Week

5 June 2020

Preaching Dates

Sunday 7 June 2020

Hazel Brooks (am) at Larkhall Baptist Church via their YouTube channel.

Willem Smit (am) in a pre-recorded message for Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Tuesday 9 June 2020

Elizabeth de Silva speaking on Zoom outreach meeting of Aberdeen Aglow.



“For I know the plans I have for you”

By Tony Walters

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” (James 4:13-17)

The ancient Rabbis had a proverb, ‘Care not for the morrow, for you know not what this day may bring forth’. These uncertain words are not meant to cause fear or inaction, but a reason for us to realise our dependency on God. As a business advisor for many years, I have often taken Directors to task for lack of vision and poor business planning. After all scripture says, **“A people without vision are going nowhere”**. So, what is James talking about here and how does it relate to us?

In the days when this scripture was written, the Jews were great traders in the ancient world. This was an age when great cities were being built and the developers were looking for people to inhabit them. Immediate citizenship was offered to Jewish merchants, because they knew money and trade usually followed. So, the picture we have here in James 4 is a man looking at a map, he spots a new city and says, “I’ll go there; start at the bottom and work my way up the ladder, make a fortune and come back a rich man”. But there was no mention of God in his planning. The problem James is relating to is an attitude of self-reliance. “Tomorrow, I will do this or that.” Making such a statement, in the confidence of one’s own ability, and without humility, is unwise. Our default approach is to do things according to the world’s wisdom, and our own power and ability, forgetting who is really in charge. We really don’t know everything about the future, but we act as though we do. Even our most prayerful planning is still subject to God’s will.

The Christian way forward is to commit the future and all our plans into the hands of God, always remembering that these plans may not always be within God’s purpose. Sometimes for our benefit he says; no, I have a better way, which at the time can be really frustrating, annoying or downright inconvenient.

But we should remember the words of Jeremiah.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”