
8

Getting Perspective

James 4:11-17

I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul." How subtly we convince ourselves that we control our lives. Sometimes only a crisis or even death itself convinces us otherwise. If we are truly wise and humble, we will listen carefully when James says, "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

1. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, how would your attitude toward life today be different?

2. Read James 4:11-17. Why does James say we shouldn't slander or speak against a Christian brother or sister (vv. 11-12)?

3. How do we tend to build ourselves up by criticizing others?

4. If we judge the law, what does this say about our attitude toward the lawgiver?

5. How can a proper attitude toward God (v. 12) enable us to have a proper attitude toward others?

6. How would you describe the two attitudes toward the future found in verses 13-17?

7. James compares life to a mist (v. 14). How does a sudden death, especially that of a famous person, help us to realize this?

8. How do you feel about your life being like a mist?

9. If our life is like a mist, what should be our attitude toward tomorrow?

Is James saying it is wrong to plan for the future? Explain.

10. How does our attitude toward the future relate to what James has said previously about humility?

11. In verse 17 James says it is a sin not to do good when we know we should. How is this sin like boasting?

12. Ask God to help you love those around you rather than judge them. Humbly commit your future plans to the Lord.