

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>11</sup> Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

- James 4:11-17 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

"We may take tomorrow for granted, thinking of it as a mark on the rim of time's wheel, coming on inevitably as the circling years proceed. But in the Bible the years do not circle. They go in a straight line from eternity to eternity, and on that line we receive another day neither by natural necessity, nor by mechanical law, nor by right, nor by courtesy of nature, but only by the covenanted mercies of God. The very existence of tomorrow is as much part of our dependence on him as is our life itself and our ability."

- J.A. Motyer

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- Matthew 11:28-30 (*English Standard Version*)

# Sermon Outline

## Our Will and His Will

James 4:11-17

*True Religion*

Matt Mobley

### A lack of godly humility leads to false superiority (James 4:11-12)

- Superiority over one another is superiority over God's Will (James 4:11)
  - Superiority over God's Will is superiority over God Himself (James 4:12)
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### A lack of godly humility leads to false self-reliance (James 4:13-17)

- Self-reliance denies the reality of our frailty (James 4:13-14)
  - Self-reliance denies our sinfulness (James 4:16-17)
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### Instead, we are called to be dependent entirely on God's Will, not our own

(James 4:15)

- He alone is Creator, Sustainer, and Provider (James 4:12a)
  - He alone gives us rest (Matthew 11:28-30)
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## Reflection Questions

- What does "defaming" others in the church reveal about us?
- How does James 4:11-12 relate to how you speak of others in the church?
- If you were gifted with \$100,000 today, what would you do with it?
- What's wrong with the "planning for tomorrow" in James 4:13? What kind of planning is James calling us to?
- In Matthew 6:34 Jesus calls us not to be anxious about tomorrow, why is that?