



Adulting

Accept

Snooze

Expositional study on the book of James.

*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

10/29/2017

Spiritual maturity can develop many different ways. One indicator of spiritual growth is one's use of and perspective regarding the gifts and resources God has given you. However, we can often become too attached to these things making them our focus.

QUESTIONS

1. What statements did John make or what points did he raise that were unexpected or new?
2. How can money help you grow spiritually? How can it hinder?
3. Re-read James 4:13-5:6. What is something that spoke to you out of this passage?
4. What negative attitude does James identify in 4:13-14? How can this lead you away from God?
5. Why does James insist that we preface our plans by saying, "If the Lord wills..."? What does this mindset indicate? (Consider Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 1 Corinthians 4:19)
6. What charges does James bring against the wealthy? Why was he so harsh in his rebuke? (Isaiah 10:1-4; Matthew 6:19-21)

7. Do you think of yourself as rich? Why or why not?

8. How does James characterize our lives (i.e., its length)? Why is this significant? (Consider Job 9:25-26; Psalm 39:5)

9. How have the rich chosen to tear down those around them rather than build them up in 5:1-6? What's behind this mindset?

10. What does James' rebuke reveal about God and God's priorities?

11. What priorities need to shift so that money can serve as a tool for God's use to help you grow spiritually?

12. Money often serves as an indicator to the question: "Who's controlling my life?" In other words, "Whose money is it?" When you think of these questions, would you say you move more toward money or toward God?

13. How might you respond to John's challenge from Sunday's message? What would begin to look different?

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father, all men are equal before. Humanity is within your hand. You desire that all people look to you first and foremost, as their creator, their Lord and their deliverer. In these verses, I am reminded that I can too often look to money as a means to create myself into my ideal image. To secure for myself stability and status. Open my heart to these words that I might consider your blessings and resources as tool to build others up. May they serve as indicators of my spiritual growth as I submit them back to your control. In Jesus name I pray, amen.