

# MAKING OUR PLANS

## LESSON 8: JAMES ON BUSINESS

### CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Steve has worked in the company for 7 years. He has been a great employee and team member, an expert in his area and respected by his co-workers. Steve has long dreamed of being a manager of a team and thinks often of what life would be like if he were the boss and have the extra money and influence that goes with the title. Sometimes he talks about his dream to be a manager around the water cooler with other employees and expresses what he would do and how things would be different if he were the boss. Steve's chance has come and there is a management position open. Steve's interview goes well but the corporate leaders go with another candidate. Steve is devastated and is considering leaving the company to look for greener pastures.

- Q.** How would you counsel Steve moving forward?
- Q.** What would be a healthy and Godly way for Steve to view his future?

### JAMES 4:13-17

*<sup>13</sup> 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." <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*

- Q.** On what basis do we make our own plans? Isa. 2:22-35, Prov 27:1-2, Luke 12:18-21  
Past experiences, significance, control, comfort, security, balance, order, etc.
- Q.** Reflect on how the brevity of your life affect the decisions and priorities in your life – Psalm 39:5
- Q.** Why is boasting about our plans sin?

### GUIDE TO MAKING BUSINESS PLANS

1. Submit our lives to Him completely.
2. Align our desires with His desires. Care about what He cares about. Cry, weep and long for that which is precious to Him.
3. Determine course of action bathed in prayer.

- Q. What does this submission look like practically in your busy life?
- Q. How do you think the time frame of this process works out?
- Q. What are the benefits of plans originated with this process?

King David could have expressed himself by his conquests, accomplishments, or acquisitions but this prayer is how he chooses to reflect on his life.

## PSALM 103

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

<sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

<sup>21</sup> Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

<sup>22</sup> Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

- Q. What do you observe that is important to David?
- Q. What perspective does David have on his own life?
- Q. How does this prayer shape the significance of your plans?
- Q. How will you think differently about planning for tomorrow?