



### March 25: James 4:13-5:6

1. Verses 13-17 are a straightforward assault on human pride and presumptuousness. Describe the kind of person to whom this section seems to be addressed. What kind of enterprise do these people seem to be engaged in? Do they seem to be poor or affluent?
2. Do you think the people addressed in these verses are professing Christians? What clues in the text lead you to that conclusion? (Hint: look carefully at v. 15).
3. What mistake are these businesspeople making in their assumptions (vv. 13-14)? What sins underlie these mistaken assumptions?

4. What does James say ought to be a Christian's frame of mind when thinking about the future? Is James saying that planning or investing for the future is wrong? If not, what then is he saying is wrong?

5. Do you think you should say the phrase "If the Lord wills" when you talk about the future? Even if it's not necessary to say it every time, how can you work to cultivate that kind of dependence on God in your own life and thinking?

6. If the paragraph 4:13-17 is addressed to Christians, to whom is the paragraph 5:1-6 addressed? What clues in the text help you describe these people?

7. In what ways were these rich landowners oppressing the church? Give specific examples from the text. What would be equivalent practices in our own time?