



No Matter What

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Eternally Speaking Now

As we approach the closure of 2020, I find myself with a long list of things I either learned or relearned throughout this unusual and unpredictable year. Near the top of that list is this:

You never know what a day may bring.

How many plans did we all have for 2020
that did not come to pass?

Someone you were to meet was exposed to covid and had to cancel.

A restaurant you planned to patronize was shuttered.

The relatives you wanted to visit had to quarantine.

Your favorite boutique closed. Forever.

Your child sneezed, so you stayed home. Again.

Soon into this year, I learned quickly to correct myself while committing to future activities, adding, "...well, that is, if the Lord wills." This wasn't because I wanted an "out" in case I changed my mind. It also wasn't because I sought to sound super holy. Rather, it was because I simply couldn't rely on the days ahead to pan out as I desired.

Indeed, plans **changed** by the week this year, taking me to God's Word in James 4.

***Come now, you who say,
“Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year
there, buy and sell,
and make a profit”; whereas
you do not know what will happen tomorrow.
For what is your life?
It is even a vapor that appears for a little time
and then vanishes away.
Instead, you ought to say,
“If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”***
James 4:13-15

So **true**. Aren't these verses fitting for today?
James continues,

***But now you boast in your arrogance.
All such boasting is evil.***
James 4:16

Wait a minute.
To assume I will do *this* or *that* in the future is *boasting*?
It's *evil*? **Yes**. It's *arrogance*? **Really**.
This is God's Word. His Word is **Truth**.

This same message is echoed in Psalm 27:1.

***Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring forth.***
Psalm 27:1

I don't think this means we're to refuse to make commitments or schedule appointments. Instead, I believe God is instructing us to keep a **humble** posture before Him as we maintain an active calendar...*through His guidance and for His purposes.*

CHALLENGE

In the midst of the Christmas season, I recall a young, **humble** Jewish girl named Mary, whose life was radically **altered** one evening over 2,000 years ago. In the middle of planning her wedding, an angel suddenly appeared and pronounced her immaculate conception. She would mother the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the Savior of the world.

Talk about a **change** in plans!
What a **difference** *that* day made, eh?
Not just for Mary, but for the entire **human race**.

Mary's plans were **redirected** by God, and she **trusted** Him,
despite the cost.

We too must **trust the Lord** when our course is **diverted**,
come what may.

While our choice to **yield** our plans to the Lord may not have as far-reaching an impact as Mary's, it still can **affect** countless others.
Choices have consequences, and consequences create a ripple effect.

Do you know how God summarizes His message to us in James 4?

***Therefore, to him who knows to do good
and does not do it, to him it is sin.***

James 4:17

We know what is good: **submit** to God's will, not ours.
To neglect doing so is sin, and sin leads to destruction. Period.

Let's determine to continually **surrender** and **re-surrender** our plans, our calendars, and this coming new year to the Lord's will and **His alone.**

No matter what.

Do you have a daily Bible reading plan for 2021?

What better way is there to discern God's will than to hear His voice by reading His Word? Click the link below, and then scroll down to "Bible Reading Plans." There are 20 to choose from, including online personal progress charts and other helpful tools.

BIBLE READING PLANS for 2021

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
and to present you faultless
before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
to God our Savior,
who alone is wise,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power,
both now and forever.*

Amen.

Jude 24-25

Merry Christmas!

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