

A Paradigm Shift James 4:13-5:6

The term paradigm shift refers to a major change in the worldview, concepts, and practices of how something works or is accomplished.

1] How about Now

[James 4:13-17]

- Kookoo (clock)
- Loot (profit)
- Master (Lord)

2] Look out rich people!

[James 5:1-6]

- Howl
- I-focused
- Jesus-centered

3] God's Wisdom

- Read
- Understand
- Apply

"The secret to a happy life is to delight in duty."

- Dr. Chuck Missler

James 4:13-5:6 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"— 14 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. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are motheaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 "You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. ¹⁵ You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin.

Proverbs 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.

Jeremiah 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages,

Psalm 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psalm 62:10 Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Psalm 119:54 Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.

Invictus

William Ernest Henley 1849 –1903

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll,

I am the master of my fate:

I am the captain of my soul.

My Captain by Dorothea Day

Out of the night that dazzles me,
Bright as the sun from pole to pole,
I thank the God I know to be
For Christ the conqueror of my soul.

Since His the sway of circumstance,
I would not wince nor cry aloud.
Under that rule which men call chance
My head with joy is humbly bowed.

Beyond this place of sin and tears
That life with Him! And His the aid,
Despite the menace of the years,
Keeps, and shall keep me, unafraid.

I have no fear, though strait the gate, He cleared from punishment the scroll.

Christ is the Master of my fate, Christ is the Captain of my soul.

Study Questions

- [1] Read James 4:13-17. How do these verses connect with the focus of James 4:7-9 on submission and humility?
- [2] Do you find it easy or difficult to let go of "stuff"-money, possessions, memorabilia, etc.?
- [3] Read James 5:1-6. What specifically had the "rich people" done to make James so passionate? How would you describe a biblical approach to finances?
- [4] Pray for God to help you to understand, believe, and apply His wisdom to your life. When we gain understanding it impacts our beliefs. If we believe, it will impact what we do. And when we do something enough it becomes a habit. Pray for God's blessing on you.