

What Would Jesus Think?

Part 1 – “Goals for the New Year”

James 4:13-15

January 4, 2009

It is a new year, and it is a time for change. Everyone says to set goals and make New Year’s resolutions. Isn’t that just presuming on God? What does the Bible say about setting goals? What should our goals be for our church in 2009?

I. The Biblical Basis... Is goal setting biblical? (James 4:13-15)

A. 3 observations

1. Setting goals (planning) without **consulting** God is presumptuous.

¹³Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

Proverbs 16:9: “The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.”

2. Life is **unpredictable**, so put God first in your decision making process.

3. **Presuming** that you know what God’s will is without asking Him is foolish!

¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

Proverbs 19:21: “Many plans are in a man’s heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.”

D. Schedule some time to reflect on your life.

E. Find someone to be accountable to.

Proverbs 27:17: “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

VI. 2009 Spiritual Goals for Moorpark Ev Free: I will...

A. Be involved in ministry... weekly

B. Pray with my spouse regularly... daily

C. Participate actively in a home group... 2x/month

D. Have a regular Quiet Time (5 days/week) and/or read through the Bible in a year!

E. Share my faith with 3 people this year

F. Invite 3 families to church in the next 6 months

G. Memorize and meditate on God’s Word... 4 verses /month?

H. Practice the discipline of solitude and Sabbath.

I. Tithe 10% to my church first and then to other organizations

J. Ask God to use me in ways that only He could orchestrate!

Table Talk:

1. What has kept you from writing down your goals for this next year?
2. Which goals from the list above are you willing to commit to?
3. What other passages in the Bible speak to setting goals?
4. What changes do you need to make this year to become the person God has called you to be?
5. With whom will you be accountable this year?

B. 3 examples

1. **Paul** had a goal/vision for his life

Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

2. **Nehemiah** set goals and planned as he rebuilt the walls in Jerusalem

3. **God** has plans/goals for your life!

Jeremiah 29:11: "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"

II. The Basics... Why is goal setting so "scary"?

- A. **Fear**
- B. **Failure**
- C. **Pressure**
- D. **No System**
- E. **Unbiblical**

III. The Benefits of Goal Setting

A. The Research

B. The Reasons

1. **Future**: They give you permission to dream...
2. **Focus**: They help you clarify what you really want in life

IV. The Benchmarks... M.A.P.S.

Measurable: Did I or didn't I? How do you know?

Achievable: Realistic. Don't set them too high!

Personal: Based on your values

Specific: Outcomes you want; by when?

V. The Bottom Line... How do I Set Goals?

A. Establish a **mission** for your life.

B. Think through your life focus. Before I die...

1. What do I want to **be**?
2. What do I want to **do**?
3. What do I want to **have**?
4. Whom do I want to **help**?

C. Seven areas to set goals in...

1. **Physical**
2. **Emotional/Personal**
3. **Social**
4. **Spiritual**
5. **Family**
6. **Financial**
7. **Educational/School**