

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 18 October 2009

Walk the walk (6)

Read James 4.13-17

1. What strikes you about this passage? Who do you think it is directed at?
2. It could seem that James is not a fan of business people. Is this fair, or is he trying to make a different point?

Many of us struggle with a lack of a sense of significance. If we feel we're strong in a particular area, we can use it to prop ourselves up, without ever letting God into the weaknesses we're compensating for. Then we often become self-assured and proud in our perceived strengths. These could be: success at work; keeping a tidy home; being caring; being intelligent; being a good parent. At some point in the evening, you might want to take some time for quiet reflection on whether, and where, you do this.

Read James 5.1-6

3. This is a very challenging passage! Who do you think James is talking to – Christians or not?
4. This passage seems enormously relevant to the modern world. What do you think James would say to us today?

In God's economy, what we can 'have' is less important than what we can 'give'. We are to be sources of God's blessing to others, not just receiving it for ourselves.

5. Is there anything more you could do to help alleviate others' poverty, whether locally or globally?

Read James 5.7-12

Having an attitude of patience is in stark contrast to much of our culture, which seems obsessed with having 'more'.

6. What is the 'harvest' James envisages? When will it happen?
7. The opposite of grumbling is encouragement. How can we encourage each other to be content, trusting the Lord for everything we need?