

Grace valley Bible Study
PT: Ron Adema
Study: Book of James

Date: 4/ 8/ 25
Text: James 4:13-17
File: Tuesday

Lesson: LIVE ALL YOUR TOMORROWS TODAY

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following outline.

- 4:13,16 – Boastful plans – “*Come now, you who say.*”
- 4:14-15 - Best plan – “**Yet you do not know.**” “*Instead you ought to say.*”
- 4:17 - Bad plan - “*Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does NOT do it, to him it is SIN.*”

Key doctrinal principle: “*If (3c) the Lord wills (thelo/ p.a.subj), we will live (zao/ f.a.ind.1pl) and also do (poieo/ f.a.ind.1pl) this or that.*” (Jas.4:15)

We will study **FOUR aspects** of *Live All Your Tomorrows Today by the Lord’s will.*

1. There are three classifications important to understand the **Lord’s Will:** Directive; Permissive; and Over-ruling.

We will use Jonah as an example of Jas.4:17.

Directive will is what God has declared He wants you to do.

Permissive will is what God permits your volition to reject regarding His directive will.

Over-ruling will is when God intervenes to bring you back to the directive will.

There are three categories that work with these three classifications of Lord’s will.

- **Geographical will** is where God wants you to do it.
- **Mental will** is how God wants you think about doing it.
- **Operational will** is what and how God want you to do His directive will.

2. The Greek verb used for **will** in **Jas.4:15** is **thelo**.

Thelo implies a *determined purpose to one’s volition*. Writer of Hebrews used **Esau** as an example (**Heb.12:15-17/ Thelo (desire) Struggle/ 12:17**).

“*Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring (thelo) to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.*” (Heb.13:18)

Thelo is used with Pilate in Luke 23:18-25/ 20 – wanting; desiring; willing/ determined purpose to volition).

3. Pilate had a **Thelo Struggle** in the criminal court trial of Jesus Christ at Passover in **Luke 23:18-25**. *“Pilate, wanting (thelo/ a determined purposed will) to release Jesus, addressed them again.” (Luke 23:20)*

We learn from **Matt.27:15**, that Pilate’s wife had a dream about this trial and sent this word to her husband –*“Have nothing to do with this righteous man.”*

Pilate in court, *“What evil has this man done. I have found in Him no guilt demanding death... (23:22-23).”*

But he went against his wife’s advice as well as against his own good conscience (**Thelo Struggle**) and sentenced Jesus to death penalty (23:24).

“And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted.” (Luke 23:24/socio-political not criminal thus evil)

4. In Rom.7:14-21, Paul taught on the **Thelo Struggle** in a believer to *Live all our Tomorrows Today by the Lord’s will.*

In Rom.7:14-21, Paul used **thelo** (*determined purposed will of Lord*) in every verse but 7:14 and 17. Paul is teaching on the **Thelo Struggle** within the inner man between spirituality and carnality.

- 7:14 – *“For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.”*
- 7:15 – *“Not practicing **what I would like (thelo) to do**, but I am doing the very thing I hate.”*
- 7:16 – *“But if I do the very thing I **do not want (thelo) to do**;*
 - 7:17 – *“So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but **sin (OSN)** which dwells in me.”*
- 7:18 – *“For the **willing (thelo)** is present in me, but the doing of good is not.”*
- 7:19 – *“For the good that I **want (thelo)**, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I **do not want (thelo).**”*
- 7:20 – *“But if I am doing the very thing I **do not want (thelo)**, I am no longer the one doing it, but **sin (OSN)** which dwells in me.”*
- 7:21 – *“I find then the principle that evil is present in me, **the one who wants (thelo) to do good.**”*
- 7:25 – Paul closed with – *“Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, **on the one hand** I myself with **my mind am serving** the law of God, **but on the other hand**, with **my flesh the law of sin (OSN).**”*

The **Thelo Struggle** reminds us of the importance of doing Lord’s will on a daily consistent basis in the Angelic Conflict.