

Compass Bearing #5
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
“Tomorrow is in God’s Hands”
Thursday, April 2, 2020
By Pastor Mark Ellcessor

Confession: I am a futureholic. I am always thinking about tomorrow. Next week. Next year. Next decade. I can’t get the future out of my head. I’m not kidding.

A few months ago I wrote two lists:

1. What to do in my last 100 days at the Compass Church
2. What to do in my first 100 days at Fishers UMC

All it took was a global pandemic to derail my best laid plans. I haven’t even looked at my “100 Days” lists for weeks.

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

This is a good reminder for a person like me. In fact, it is a wakeup call for all of us. This passage from James 4:13-16 expounds on this concept:

¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Did you catch that little phrase? “If it is the Lord’s will.” That is the right way to live. Don’t ignore the future. Simply understand that the past, present AND future all belong to God.

Maybe verse 17 is the punch line to the joke about how we make plans for tomorrow when there is something right in front of us we need to take care of today. James simply says, *“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”*

Nobody knows when things will get back to “normal.” We really don’t know when yet again we will be rushing our kids to school, scurrying to get to an event, dashing to a meeting, hurrying to make it to a program. And once again, when someone asks, “How are you?” our answer will be, “Tired...and busy.”

Of course, we don’t want this shelter-in-place, essential-travel-only, social-distancing life to continue one minute longer than it needs to. But, I wonder if there is something we can learn from trusting the Lord for our yesterdays, today’s, and tomorrows.

Prayer: Lord, I give you all my days. Show me your will, and let me walk faithfully through each day into your future. When I get ahead of you, pull me back. When I lag behind you, give me a push. Teach me to follow you so closely that your shadow is always covering me. Amen.