



# Managing GOD's Money

Last time we saw the Bible doesn't prevent borrowing but it views it negatively. Though not dealing with borrowing direct, James 4:13-15 shows us why it isn't wise to borrow:

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." 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. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." --- James 4:13-15

## Borrowing Assumptions

This passage shows at least three false borrowing assumptions:

1. Borrowing assumes the future will resemble the present
2. Borrowing assumes we have no alternative
3. Borrowing puts Jesus in a box, so we don't depend on Him

How do you react when your car breaks down? Most of us "**assume the future will resemble the present!**" Even when we don't have funds, based on today's knowledge, we borrow to repair or replace the car, assuming we can repay the loan from future income. But Apostle James tells us "**we do not even know what will happen tomorrow!**" Will we have a job?

We see the second false assumption; **we have no alternative**, in this statement: "I must repair my car to go to work!" This assumes God is asleep and doesn't know our condition! It leads us to becoming flustered and not lean on God. We forget faith is depending on the unseen. If we can see the result we don't need faith!

The third assumption, **putting God in a box** is the most negative. When the car breaks we pray for a financial miracle. But that's not what's needed! Money merely is a bridge we don't need. Rather, we need what it buys. The car broke down; we need to understand our transport alternatives!

James reminds us to look to the eternal. We will repair the car and it will break again; viewed from eternity it's not a big deal. He tells us to seek God's will. Faced with challenges with the car, washing mashing, stove, how do you act? Do you seek God's peace or your prescribed financial miracle?

Scripture tells us to seek God's peace. Philippians 4:6-7 affirms this...

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus --- Philippians 4:6-7**

When we seek and receive God's peace, we will be able to see solutions He prepared; then we will be able to trust Him for His results!

Praying for a financial miracle tells God the results we want. This limits Him and suggests our solution is best! But only He knows the future. The best result might be not having a car to learn humility, dependency, sharing, caring or other trait! We don't know!

Asking for a financial miracle is like giving your sick five-year-old baby, candy because she asks for candy, rather than her prescribed medicine. You would never do this, yet this is what we expect from God!

Our heavenly Father wants us to bring our needs to Him. The need is never money but, stuff like food, clothing, shelter, or transport. As well, we must understand, to grow closer to Jesus, we need to bear results of poor decisions, and the effects of our disobedience.

Don't put Jesus in a box, but expect Him to treat us much better than we would treat our five-year-old child or grand child. In John 14: 14, Jesus said,

**You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it --- John 14:14**

**Ask Jesus to give you what He knows is best for you.**

Next time we will look at borrowing effects and costs.

God bless and remember Jesus loves you