

Self Focused: Arrogance & Materialism

James 4: 13 – 5: 6

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Introduction: We make assumptions



**E
XAM
INE YOUR
ASSUMPTIONS**

- House will always be there.
- Children will love school.
- Job is secure.
- In-laws will love us.
- Adult children will always take of us.

1. How do we express our
Self-Focused Assumptions?
(4: 13)

2. Why do we make these
Self-Focused Assumptions?
(4: 14 – 17)

3. How do we combat
Self-Focused Assumptions?
(5: 1 – 6)

1. How do we express our
Self-Focused Assumptions?

#1 Assume that there is always a tomorrow

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow” (4: 13a)

Sanjeev’s baby

- Born with congenital heart condition
- Expecting the worst: Death, Dying or Operation
- Surviving day-by-day

I used to think that the worst thing in life was to end up all alone. It's not. The worst thing in life is ending up with people who make you feel all alone.

~ Robin Williams

#2: Assume that we always have capacity to perform!

‘we will go to this or that city, spend a year there...’ (4: 13b)

- Amy’s Health: Cancer
- John’s Health: Thyroid growth

#3 Success is not given

‘carry on business,
make money” (4: 13c)

- Life is focused on existential
- ‘Business’: Matters we attend to/commercial activity

2. Why do we make these Self-Focused Assumptions?

Assumptions about Assumptions

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (v 14)

WE BELIEVE WE CAN

WE LIVE FOREVER

We exclude God out of our life!

‘you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that. (v 15)’

We self-aggrandize!

‘As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil (v 16)

Muhammed Ali

I am gonna show you
how GREAT I am!

**IT'S THE LACK OF FAITH THAT MAKES
PEOPLE AFRAID OF MEETING CHALLENGES,
AND I BELIEVE IN MYSELF**

It's hard to be HUMBLE
if you are as GREAT as I am!

“SUPERMAN don’t need
no seat belt”

“SUPERMAN don’t need
No AIRPLANE.
So, put on your seat belt!”

3. How do we combat Self-Focused Assumptions?

DOING

GOOD

‘Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to
do and doesn’t do it, sins.’ (v 17)

*1. Never know when wealth will dissipate:
So do good not hoard!*

‘Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.’ (5: 2, 3)

DOING

GOOD

2. Treat people fairly (especially lowest rank)

‘Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.’ (5: 4)

DOING

GOOD

3. Sharing what you have

‘You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourself for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent man, who were not opposing you.’ (5: 5, 6)

DOING

GOOD

Money is like love; it kills slowly and painfully the one who withholds it, and enlivens the other who turns it on his fellow man.

~ Khalil Gibran

***Make as much as you can
Save as much as you can
Give as much as you can
But never sit on the can”
John Wesley***

WHY AM I RICH?

Dylan Wilk

Founder, Human Nature &
Social Impacter, Gawad Kalinga, Philippines

Self-indulgent lifestyle NEVER SHARES because it hoards & focuses on looking good.

More we have, More we desire to look good,
More we want.

Self-indulgent lifestyle has a CORRUPTING effect:
Makes us believe that more we have,
happier we will be.

.Self-indulgent lifestyle BLINDS us to needs of other.
Don't BLINK an eye on nice meal, Gucci bag but to give
\$20 to the needy, we think TWICE.

The rituals of amassing wealth and curating precious objects are really a dance of death... The deceptiveness of riches is dangerous for the soul because it will endanger so many others.”

Richardson, K. A.

STORY OF CHENG SEE & CHURCH

Wife of Malaysian tycoon. Worked among the poorest of poor in Rifle Range, Penang.

Started seeking God to use her: Gift of Cooking

50 year man, Wife left him, bankrupt, wanted to commit suicide. Cooked for him every day.

STORY OF CHENG SEE

Today, She is feeding 1,350 families.

STORY OF CHENG SEE

Every day she would go to Rifle Range. Noticed many children did not go to school.

- No white shoes
- No money for bus fares
- No school fees
- No school books in their school bags.

She opened a drop-in center.
Kids can come in.

STORY OF CHENG SEE

Sharing has eternal impact!

Sharing has eternal impact!

“You have hoarded wealth in the last days” (v 3)

The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the
Lord Almighty. (v 4)

You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who
were not opposing you. (v 6)

‘Anyone, then, who knows the good
he ought to do
and doesn’t do it, sins.’ (4: 17)

What is ONE GOOD
thing you can do today?

GO DO IT!!