Title: Who Died And Made You King?
Text: James 4:11-17 ESV
Tension: You don't have to reject God with your mouth to replace Him with your behavior.

I. **Pride shows up in our <u>speech</u>. (v. 11a)**
   A. **Don't speak evil**
      1. *"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law."* (v. 11a)
      2. Slander / evil speech: Speaking against someone in a way that maligns, belittles, or tears them down with the intent of causing others to view that person in a negative light.
      3. Biblical Thread: Leviticus 19, Matthew 15
         a) Leviticus 19:16: "Do not spread slanderous gossip…"
         b) Matthew 15:18-19: "What comes out of the mouth reveals the heart."
   B. **Don't judge (v. 11b-12)**
      1. *"There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"* (v. 11-12)
      2. The law in view: Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18; Matt 22:39)
      3. When we condemn our neighbor, we place ourselves above the very law we're called to obey.
      4. Right vs. Wrong judgement
         a) Wrong Judgment: Matthew 7:1-5
            (1) Purpose: To condemn rather than restore.
            (2) Posture: Self-righteous, hypocritical, and superior.
         b) Right Judgement: John 7:24
            (1) Purpose: To discern truth and pursue restoration.
            (2) Posture: Humble, self-examined, and gentle.
      5. Biblical Thread: Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 7:1-5

II. **Pride shows up in our <u>self-reliance</u>. (v. 13-14)**
   A. **The confidence of our plans**
      1. *"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."* (v. 13-14)
      2. The Five D's of Presumption:
         a) Departure – *"Today or tomorrow"*
         b) Destination – *"Such and such a town"*
         c) Duration – *"Spend a year there"*
         d) Deals – *"Trade"*
         e) Dollars – *"Make a profit"*

B. The uncertainty of life: (v. 14a)

1. *"yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring."* (v. 14)
2. We can make plans for tomorrow without knowing what tomorrow holds.
3. *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."* (Proverbs 27:1)

C. The brevity of life: *"What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."* (v. 14b)

1. Grass: Psalm 103:15
2. Shadow: Psalm 144:4
3. Vapor/Mist: James 4:14

III. Humility shows up in our surrender. (v. 15)

A. The posture God requires: Surrender

1. *Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."* (v. 15)

B. Surrendered view of life:

1. My knowledge is limited.
2. My time is temporary.
3. My future is not guaranteed.

C. Surrendered view of God:

1. God is sovereign over my life.
2. God is sovereign over my plans.
3. God is sovereign over my future.

D. The posture pride chooses: Boasting (v. 16)

1. *"As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."* (v. 16)

E. The response God requires: Obedience (v. 17)

1. "*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*" (v. 17)

F. Two Categories of Sin:

1. Sin of Commission: Doing what God has forbidden.
    a) Example: Arrogant boasting (v. 16)
2. Sin of Omission: Failing to do what God has commanded.
    a) Example: Knowing we should submit to God's will but refusing to live accordingly (v. 15-17)
3. The Distinction: Sin isn't only doing what we shouldn't. It's also failing to do what we should.

Takeaway: The throne isn't yours to claim. Tomorrow isn't yours to control. And obedience isn't yours to postpone.