

JAMES 5

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

WARNING TO THE DEFRAUDER

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments (**FANCY CLOTHES**) are moth-eaten. **NLT - Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.**

- Chuck Smith says that wealth in those days was measured by food storage. Jesus Himself demonstrated this with the Parable of the Rich Fool:

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:13 Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." **14** But He said to him, "**Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?**"

15 And He said to them, "**Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**"

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "**The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17** And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'

20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

21 "**So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich (*In relationship*) toward God.**"

- People depending upon their money and their generosity to save them will be very disappointed on the day of judgment. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus prophesied that at the judgment He will say to many, "Depart from Me, I never knew you."

THE RUST OF MONEY

3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. **CEV - Your money has rusted, and the rust will be evidence against you, as it burns your body like fire. Yet you keep on storing up wealth in these last days.**

- How could stored up gold and silver be a witness against you?
 - Let's return to Chapter 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.
- James is speaking to fake Christians who NOT giving to help others.
 - Remember that faith, without works is WHAT? Dead!
- And even worse, THEY WERE CROOKS! Listen...

SIN OF SLOW PAYING

4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

- In Bible times most people were SO poor that they were paid at the end of the day so that they could buy food to feed his family that night!
 - **Deuteronomy 24:14** "You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, *whether* one of your brethren or one of the aliens *who is* in your land within your gates. 15 Each day you shall give *him* his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he *is* poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.
- James lectures these rich business owners who take their time paying their employees.

OPPRESSIVE RICH

5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

CEV - While here on earth, you have thought only of filling your own stomachs and having a good time. But now you are like fat cattle on their way to be

butchered. You have condemned and murdered innocent people, who couldn't even fight back.

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

- Until recently, Israel was a dry farming country. SO... They were used to planting and then waiting. Chuck Smith tells that during years of exile, when Israel was NOT farming, the rains ceased... Israel became arid and dried out. All of that is changing these days...
 - The lesson for us is this: BE PATIENT fellow Christian.
 - Do not lose heart. Do this...

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- Like the farmer who patiently waits for the precious fruit of the earth... God is waiting patiently to send Jesus to gather us to Him in the air...
 - How many of you think that day is growing much closer? I DO!

THOU SHALT NOT GRUMBLE

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

- How many of you have a doorbell camera that gives you an alarm when someone is at your door?
 - I get a doorbell sounding ring on my phone when Lynette comes home; or when my UPS guy, Sean, delivers a treasure; Or when Amazon delivers at 5:45 AM! Or when one of the Grandkids leave after we have gone to sleep?!?!?
- Listen, IF THERE WAS such a thing as a "Rapture Alarm," I think it would be going off... There is someone standing at the door and His name is JESUS!
 - Don't be caught holding a grudge when the Lord returns!!!

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended* by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

- The Industrial Safety & Hygiene News website (**ISHN.COM**) in their top 25 dangerous careers say that Logging is the most dangerous job in America. Sadly, one percent of loggers will have a fatal accident in their shortened careers.
 - **PROPHETS were not on this list**, or THEY would be #1 as they were known for having deadly results because MOST of them were murdered by the very Kings and Rulers they were called to serve.
- One of the things that we can profit from is reading the Prophets. Their writing in many cases were their dying testimonies. IE, they were NOT lying or getting rich from telling the truth!
 - SO... Endure these evil days as did the Prophets! Read your bible!

LET YOUR YES BE YES!

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

- I always cringe when someone raises their right hand, place the other on a bible and swear to tell the truth... Then lie and lie and lie – to Congress.
 - I get uncomfortable when I hear someone say, “I swear to God...”
- DON'T do that beloved. Just tell the truth; or tell the person you are talking with that YOU DO NOT want to answer!
 - Husbands? What is the one exception? LET'S MOVE ALONG...

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

13 Is anyone among you suffering? (**G2552**) **Going through a hardship**. Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

- There is a difference made here between hardship and sickness. YES, sickness is a hardship, but not all hardship involves sickness.
 - I love that we are encouraged to worship during hardships, RIGHT?
- My Lynette is a great example of someone who worships through hardship. When she is dealing with troubles, she reaches for worship.
 - She sings through sorrows... She praises through problems... Her heart sings through heartache... She is a fine example of cheerful suffering.
 - You ladies will discover these same traits in Priscilla as well!

THE PRAYER OF THE SICK

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him **call** for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the **prayer of faith** will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- SO... Is this a verse about healing from sickness or about being healed from sin? WHO SAID "YES!"
 - Healing is one of those subjects that teaches us patience. It does so because it is the will of God that heals, and God alone chooses to or not to heal.
 - Our part of healing is #1 – CALL!
 - #2 Pray by faith and with faith.
 - Lastly, we are to wait on the Lord.
- I have been healed instantly and have witnessed instant healings many times in my ministry... AND... I have sat at many bedsides praying... As the Lord collected souls.
 - AND I still pray for you who are sick... I pray for you who are suffering hardships... AND I pray even harder for you are experiencing both!
 - Am I praying fervently, Oh YES!!!

FERVENT PRAYER

16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another,

- OK, Let's get this over with... Anybody besides me here who is a sinner?

OK, We are NOT proud of our sin... We are working hard to NOT sin...
AND... We are praying for each other...

and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. **CEV - The prayer of an innocent person is powerful, and it can help a lot.**

- DO be careful about who you confess to... Chuck Smith tells of the three Pastors who decided to confess their sins to one another. The first – Problem with Alcohol. #2 – Problem with Lust. #3 said he struggled with gossip and couldn't wait to get out of there.

PRAY LIKE ELIJAH

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- Why could Elijah pray like this? Because he listened to the Lord!

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

- Remember **Isaiah 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good *things*, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

If you would like some prayer today, make your way up front for prayer.