

A STUDY OF JAMES ⁽¹⁸⁾

Therefore Be Patient
James 5:7-11

The Book of James

- Continuing our study of James, we have addressed numerous practical applications.
- His audience was primarily Jewish converts who were scattered abroad
- The book is filled with practical applications.
- Our last lesson noted James' strongest condemnation of the rich (**Jas. 5:1-6**). While applicable primarily to corrupt unbelievers, it was designed as encouragement for Christians who were suffering at their hands – God knows and will judge.
- Today, he appeals again to believers encouraging patience.

Therefore be patient – 5:7-11

- *Therefore* – ties this to our previous point. James has been addressing various troubles we will face as Christians. All of these can be frustrating as we try to do right and BE right. We might reach that point where we want to give up. His encouragement is to endure and he gives some suggestions to help.

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- *Be patient* – at least 2 different words in Greek
- ὑπομένω (hypomenō) – the typical word, meaning to remain, or to stay the course. One does not give up and maintains control.
- μακροθυμέω (makrothymeō) – to remain tranquil as you wait, to forbear. To endure provocation without complaint. To be long tempered. To be patient even when wronged or you are suffering.
“Longsuffering” (13x)
- The latter is the primary word in our text.

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- Patience – involves many things.
- **Leave it in God's hands** - *Until the coming of the Lord*
- In vs. 6, *he does not resist you*.
We noted that often this is because one is powerless to adequately respond (without sinful recourse – e.g., violence, malice, retribution, etc.)
- BUT also consider our demeanor –
1 Peter 2:18-20, Matthew 5:43-44, 38-39.
- Let God take care of it – **Romans 12:19-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- Patience – involves many things.
- **How long?** *Until the coming of the Lord*
- One day, Jesus will return and there will be judgment – **2 Peter 3:10, Hebrews 9:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10**
- NOTE: More imminently, this could also have referenced (included) what would happen to Jerusalem.

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- Patience – involves many things.
- *Establish your hearts*
- Our determination to have a proper heart.
- This is the only way to avoid bitterness, etc.
- *Establish* – to strengthen or firmly set something. Make up your mind!
- Is stubbornness ever a good thing?
Consider **Ezekiel 3:8-10** – the LORD gave him a “hardhead.” He then tied it to His words in his heart.

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- Patience – involves many things.
- *Establish your hearts*
- This was the word used to describe Jesus as He *steadfastly set* His face toward Jerusalem – **Luke 9:51**.
- 5 (of 13) times, it describes the Lord or God strengthening us to stand (**cf. Romans 16:25, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 2 Thess. 3:3, 1 Peter 5:10, etc.**)
- **Colossians 3:2** – “set your mind on things above.”
- **2 Peter 1:12** – it is in “this present truth” (God’s word) that we are established (**Acts 20:32, Ephesians 4:12-16**)

Therefore be patient – 5:7-11

- Patience – involves many things.
- *Do not grumble against one another*
- Be reminded (in James) – we need each other, especially in trying times!
- Many of the problems James addressed included their attitude and conduct toward each other.
- Grumbling – to complain or groan.
- While we strive for unity, we must never forget that we are human – with idiosyncrasies. We cannot tolerate sin, but what about differences in culture, mannerisms, etc.?
How do we treat those who are different, compared to those we are closer to? How do we talk ABOUT them? Would we still stand up FOR them?

Therefore be patient – **5:7-11**

- Patience – involves many things.
- *Do not grumble against one another*
- **Galatians 5:14-15, Philippians 2:14**
- Grumbling and similar qualities ROB us of harmony and peace with one another. It often leads to skewed judgments.
- Who wants to be around someone always criticizing and complaining? **Ephesians 4:31**
- If this is you, do you want to be around yourself?
- *Lest you be condemned!*
- *Behold the judge is at the door.* This is the 3rd time we are reminded of His coming.
- Be reminded – WE NEED EACH OTHER!!!!

Examples of patience – 5:7-11

- Our text gives 3 examples of patience
- *The farmer waits patiently for rains and fruit*
- Farming requires patience – longsuffering. There is the time element, but also uncertainty in weather, the market and other factors – many out of his control.
- But in the end, he partakes of his produce – **cf. 2 Timothy 2:6.**
- He also waits, knowing that at “the appointed time” the harvest will come.
- Again, 3x in our text – the Lord’s judgment is mentioned.

Examples of patience – **5:7-11**

- Our text gives 3 examples of patience
- *Consider the prophets*
- OT prophets faced suffering as they declared the Lord's message.
 - Jeremiah was lowered into an active sewer - **Jeremiah 28:6**
 - Michaiah was put into prison for telling Ahab what he did not want to hear – **1 Kings 22:26-28**
 - Elijah had to flee into the wilderness as Jezebel in essence put a contract on his head – **1 Kings 19**
 - Habakkuk cries out – How long? **Habakkuk 1:2**

Examples of patience – 5:7-11

- Our text gives 3 examples of patience
- *Consider the prophets*
- They knew that God was in control and faithfully did what they were commanded.
- **Hebrews 11:35-40** likely included some of these prophets.
- Could this also include NT prophets? **Cf. Ephesians 4:11ff** – who grounded brethren in the faith. Many apostles & others paid a price for preaching.
- **Hebrews 12:1-2** – let us run with endurance...

Examples of patience – 5:7-11

- Our text gives 3 examples of patience
- *Consider Job*
- NOTE: This is the other word for patience (hypomeno). He endured without giving up.
- He was faithful and still lost everything through Satan. He regretted being born. Did not understand why and wanted an audience with God.
- But consider **Job. 1:22** - he did sin, nor charge God with wrong.
Job 2:9-10 – he rebuked his wife
Job 19:23-27 – I know that my Redeemer lives...
- **Job 42** – in the end (God's timing) he was redeemed.

Examples of patience – **5:7-11**

- Our text gives 3 examples of patience
- NOTE: We have here 3 examples of enduring patience. Do you think this is an important concept?

Recall **James 1:2-4** – where James began his letter.

Concluding thoughts – **James 5:7-11**

- As James begins to wrap up this letter, he encourages persistent faithfulness.
- Their lives were not easy, BUT if they endured they would receive the reward.

Romans 8:18, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

- **Revelation 6:9-11** – martyred saints cried, “How long” until they were avenged. They were given white robes.

How are you facing the trials
and troubles of life?