James 5:7-12

Ken Chapman · James 5:7–12 · Series: **James Study**

INTRODUCTION

- In that section, James had very strongly condemned the rich, the rich who had kept back by fraud the wages of the laborers who had worked for them.
- The rich who had lived on earth in pleasure and luxury, who had condemned and had murdered the just.

1 Be Patient, Brethren, Until the Coming of the Lord

James 5:7–8

- Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.
- They're oppressing you, they're holding back your wages, they are condemning you, maybe even murdering some of you. But judgment is coming, and you wait for it.
- God will repay. God will take care of this judgment. It's our task to be patient.
- The farmer doesn't put the seed in the ground and then immediately reap his harvest. He has to put the seed in the ground and wait.
- You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- Establish or fix your resolve and establish your faith in knowing that though things may not be the way they ought to be now.

2 Do Not Grumble Against One Another

James 5:9

- Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned.
- We let the unfairness of this life cause us to treat others unfairly and to take it out on them.
- Usually those closest to me bear the brunt of that. But James is saying that's not the way it ought to be.
- Don't let judgment come against you because of your improper reaction to this oppression. Behold, the judge is standing at the door.

3 Learn the Lesson of the Prophets and of Job

James 5:10–11

- My brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of both suffering and patience.
- Whichever prophet you hit, you could be assured that he suffered. But he did so through patience.
- Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You've heard of the perseverance of Job, and have seen the end intended by the Lord, that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
- Job struggled with the inequities and unfairness of what was happening to him.
- But he persevered, and he saw the end intended by the Lord, and he saw that the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

4 Do Not Swear; Let Your Yes Be Yes

James 5:12

- 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, lest you fall into judgment.
- A child of God doesn't need an oath, doesn't need to swear by heaven or by earth, doesn't need a contract to hold them to their word.
- When we say yes, we mean yes. And when we say no, we mean no.
- This verse, like many verses in the book of James, hearkens us back to the words of Jesus.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **No matter what we're going through, no matter how unfair it might seem, that we're to remember the Lord, that He's very compassionate and merciful, and we're to establish our hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

MY NOTES