SCRIPTURE: James 4:13-5:11; Psalm 50:1-23

SERMON: <u>Two Divine Summonses</u> 22 February 2009

INTRODUCTION: COME NOW... (Jms.4:13&5:1; Ps.50:1f; 7f&16f; see Ex.3:10; Is.1:18; 1Sam.22:11,12)

I. <u>FATHERLY CORRECTION OF THE IGNORANT</u> (4:13-17; see Ps.50:7f; Heb.12:5f)

- **A. PRESUMPTUOUS PLANS** (4:13,16; see 3:13f; 4:1f; 1Jn.2:16; Prov.27:1)
- **B. FORGETFUL SELF-ESTEEM** (4:14; see Ps.39:5; Eccl.1:2,14; Lk.12:16f)
- **C. GRACIOUS CORRECTION** (4:15; Acts 18:21; see Mt.6:9f; Eph.1:11)
- **D. FORCEFUL CONCLUSION** (4:16,17; see 4:10; 2Chr.7:14; Mt.6:9f)

II. KINGLY REBUKE OF THE WICKED (5:1-6; see Ps.50:16f)

- **A. LOSS ALREADY BEGUN** (5:1-3; 4:9; Lk.6:24; Mt.6:19f; 10:39a; see 2Chr.26:18)
- **B. UNJUST** (5:4; see Lev.19:13,18; Dt.24:15a; Is.10:1f; Habb.2:6; Mal.3:5; Mk.12:40 vs Jms.1:27)
- **C. UNMERCIFUL** (5:5,6; see Dt.15:9a; Prov.21;13; Amos 6:1f; Lk.12:21f,33; 16:19f; Rom.1:31; vs Jms.2:15,16)
- **D. FORCEFUL CONCLUSION** (5:4b,6b; see Dt.15:9b; 24:15b; Ps.9:12f)

III. ANSWER THE KING'S SUMMONSES! (Jms.4:13&5:1; Ps.50:1f; 7f&16f; see Ex.3:10; Is.1:18)

- **A. THE USEFULNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES** (2Tm.3:16; see Jms.4:13f&5:1f; Ps.119:97)
- **B. HUMBLE YOURSELVES TO ACCEPT INSTRUCTION** (4:13f; see 3:10,6f; e.g., Prov, wisdom; Eccl.4:13; Jms.3:13f; see 1Pt.5:5f; 1Tm.4:16)
- C. SUBMIT YOUR PLANS TO THE LORD IN PRAYER (4:13f; 2Chr.7:14; Mt.6:9f; Acts 13:2,3 /A.C.T.S.)
- **D. HUMBLE YOURSELVES TO ACCEPT REBUKE** (5:1f; 3:10,9; Amos, *prophets*; see Mic.6:8; Mt.23:23)
- E. DO JUSTICE: PAY WHAT YOU OWE IN FULL AND ON TIME (5:4; Dt.24:15; Pr.3:27; Rom.13:7,8)
- **F. LOVE MERCY: GIVE WHAT IS NEEDED** (5:5,6a; 1:27; 2:14f; see Lk.6:38; 2Cor.9:6; Tt.2:14; 3:14)
- G. KING JESUS SUMMONS YOU TO COME DOWN FROM YOUR ARROGANCE! (5:1f /Lk.19:2f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

- 1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
- 2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
- 3. Do you obey the Lord's summonses to you? How so?
- 4. Have you experienced His words of fatherly correction? How so?
- 5. Have you experienced His words of kingly rebuke? How so?
- 6. What is your routine for planning and doing your work?
 - a. How is your fleshly arrogance evident in this?
 - b. How is spiritual humility evident in this?
 - c. How has this sermon helped you in this?
- 7. Do you see reasons to weep and howl, perhaps in connection with the current economic crisis?
- 8. Do you see *injustice* in yourself? in our congregation? at your work? in our community? in our governments? in our culture? What does repentance look like in each case?
- 9. Do you see *mercilessness* in yourself? in our congregation? at your work? in our community? in our governments? in our culture? What does repentance look like in each case?
- 10. Is there anyone crying out to God to be delivered from your injustice or mercilessness?(!)
- 11. Are you able to accept instruction from those whom the Lord has given you to teach you? Why or why not? If not, what should you do?
- 12. How do you need to humble yourself in order to love God and your neighbor?
- 13. How do we as a congregation need to humble ourselves in order to love God and our neighbor?