

Intro:

XV. Facing Trials Patiently

A. Anticipate the Lord's Coming - vs 7-8

1. the coming of the Lord

a. 3 times in 3 verses, James refers the believers great hope, the second coming

b. *parousia* - a being near, advent (often, return; specially, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect:--**coming, presence.**

c. most commonly used in the NT referring to the 2nd coming

d. this glorious truth of His 2nd coming appears more than 500 times throughout the Bible

2. what Jesus taught about His return in the Olivet discourse - Mt 24-25; Mk 13; Lk 21

a. would be preceded by definite signs - Mt 24:5-26

b. portrayed as dramatic, climatic, like lightening crossing the sky - Mt 24:27-30

c. a time of separation as the angels gather

i. Believers to enjoy Jesus' presence - Mt 24:31 - motivation for holy living - 1 Jo 3:3

ii. Unbelievers to banish them from it - Mt 24:39-41

3. Illustration of the Farmer

a. the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth

i. waiting patiently for it

ii. *makrothumeo* - to be long-spirited, forbearing or patient:--bear (suffer) long, be longsuffering, have (long) patience, be patient, patiently endure.

b. until it receives the early and latter rain

i. early - October thru November

ii. Latter - March thru April

c. You also be patient

i. Establish your hearts,

ii. *sterizo* - to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or to confirm:--fix, (e-)stablish, steadfastly set, strengthen.

iii. Used of Jesus' resolute determination to go to Jerusalem knowing what would happen - Lk 9:51

d. for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

i. *eggizo* - to make near, approach:--approach, be at hand, come (draw) near, be (come, draw) nigh.

ii. The imminent return

- the first part of the 2nd coming was expected at any time

- Php 4:5; Heb 10:25,37; 1Pe 4:7

B. Recognize the Lord's Judgment - vs 9

1. Proper reaction to the knowledge that He could be back at any moment

a. Do not grumble against one another, brethren,

i. *stenazo* - to make in straits, to sigh, murmur, pray inaudibly:--with grief, groan, grudge.

ii. Refers to an attitude that is not necessarily expressed

iii. Some may have been suffering worse than others

b. lest you be condemned.

- i. **katakrino** - to judge against, i.e. sentence:--condemn, damn.
 - ii. Motive for avoiding bitter complaining
 - iii. Paul tells the Philippians to not complain, to be as lights - Phil 2:14-15
 - 2. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! - 3rd motive
 - a. being judged as we judge - Mt 7:1-2
 - b. all that we do, say, think will be tested by fire - 1 Co 3:13-15
 - i. depicted as ready to throw open the door and burst onto the scene in judgment
 - ii. Re 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- C. Follow the Lord's Servants - vs 10
- 1. as an example of suffering and patience.
 - a. **kakopatheia** - hardship:--suffering affliction.
 - b. **makrothumia** - see above - refers to patience with people
 - 2. the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord,
 - a. history of Israel rejecting their prophets is recorded throughout the OT
 - b. the prophets were God's spokesmen, how did Israel treat them - Mt 23:27-35
- D. Understand the Lord's Blessing - vs 11a
- 1. we - believers in general
 - 2. count them blessed
 - a. introduces the fourth motive for patiently enduring trials
 - b. **makarizo** - to beatify, pronounce (or esteem) fortunate:--call blessed, count happy.
 - 3. who endure.
 - a. **hupomeno** - to stay under (behind), remain; to undergo, bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere:--abide, endure, (take) patient(-ly), suffer, tarry behind.
 - b. related to the noun endurance in 1:3-4
 - c. people who endure are objects of divine favor - 2 Co 12:7-10
- E. Realize the Lord's Purpose - vs 11b
- 1. the perseverance of Job
 - a. The fifth motive for patient endurance in trials
 - b. most popular stories in Jewish history
 - i. most incredible attacks on him
 - ii. Most fallacious counsel of misguided would be comforters
 - 2. and have seen the end intended by the Lord - Job 42:10-17
 - a. to test Job's faith and prove it's genuineness
 - b. to thwart Satan's attempt to destroy that faith
 - c. to strengthen Job's faith and help him sees God more clearly
 - d. to increase Job's blessedness
- F. Consider the Lord's Character - vs 11c
- 1. very compassionate - **polusplagchnos** - extremely compassionate:--very pitiful.
 - a. Only here in NT
 - b. Clear testimony of OT - Ex 33:18-19; 34:6; Nu 14:18; 2 Ch 30:9; Ne 9:17; Ps 86:15; 103:8; 111:4; 112:4; 116:5; 145:8; Is 30:18; Lam 3:22:23; Joel 2:13
 - 2. and merciful - **oiktirmon** - compassionate:--merciful, of tender mercy.
 - a. unmistakable teaching of Scripture - Ps 86:15; Ez 39:25; Lk 1:78; Ro 9:16; 11:30, 32; 12:1; 15:9; 2 Co 1:3; Eph 2:4; Heb 2:17; 1 Pe 1:3; 2:10
 - b. Something to remember during trials - Ps 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.