

SERMON TAKE HOME- James 5:7-11 Patience in Suffering

⁷*Be patient, therefore, brothers*

James commands us to be patient in our suffering (to bear long with, to not lose heart)

We need patience in suffering for a number of reasons:

- it glorifies God
- we can feel like giving up in suffering at times
- we need to be patiently submitted to God's will (path) in our suffering & God timing (pace) in our suffering
- the purpose of the suffering in the midst of our suffering isn't always clear (this can cause uncertainty)
 - Uncertainty can cause unrest in our hearts
- The pain (physical, emotional, spiritual) in our suffering can be wearing and we can lose patience

until the coming of the Lord.

James not only commands us to be patient in suffering, but helps us to accomplish this command but setting our gaze on the "coming of the Lord"

- He is helping keep an eternal perspective
- He is reminding us of the promised & purchased glory that awaits the children of God (2 Cor 4:17, Rom 8:18). He is giving us perspective in our suffering by pointing to our secured future hope with Christ.
- He is also helping if the suffering we are experiencing is the result of some injustice. Our fleshly response would be for revenge, but in pointing to the return of Christ, we remember that He will settle on injustice. (Romans 12:19)

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

- The scriptures often use logic when encouraging us in our obedience as well.
- If the farmer can wait for a temporal fruit (for the rains), we can wait with patience for eternal glory!

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

- In our suffering, our hearts can become unsettled, and we can begin to doubt God & His word. What do you do when his happens?
- We should "establish/strengthen our hearts"-In the midst of suffering and doubt we see this call in the scriptures (1 Samuel 30:6, Ps 42)-We need to stop listening to our flesh or the accuser and preach to ourselves the truth (in this case, "The coming of the Lord is at hand").
- When you are feeling "I am tired, I can't go on", we must preach to ourselves "The Lord is coming, set your gaze on this truth (among other glorious truths to gain perspective)" This should strengthen your heart.
- Pointing to the truth that the Lord is coming is often used as a motivator in scripture (Rm 13:12, 1 Peter 4:7)

⁹*Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*

- If we only focus on the temporal, if we are not strengthening ourselves in the Lord (truth), then we will tend to be impatient in our suffering, and when we are impatient we tend to grumble.
- Consider the seriousness of grumbling 1 Corinthians 10:10 and should we "hell deserving sinners" really ever grumble? Consider Lam 3:39
- So the truth of the return of Christ should be both a comfort and a warning.

¹⁰*As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

- Now James gives us an example of people who suffered and were patient. “The prophets”
- I believe he points to the prophets for two main reasons
 - First-they were obedient (they “spoke in the name of the Lord”) and yet they suffered
 - Second-They suffered more than most of us ever will
- Heb 11:36-38 is referencing all the heroes of faith, but most of the suffering mentioned here was experienced by the prophets. Consider this suffering in light of your own. Gives us a good perspective
- Also consider (Matt 5:12) if you experience persecution

¹¹*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

- *Behold we consider those blessed who remained steadfast*-This is in a sense a rhetorical question, answer being “yes”
- Then James points us to Job (we know his suffering Job 1-2)
- Note in Job’s suffering, his patient and faithful statements were all made before the Lord restored him
 - Job 1:20-22, 2:9-10, 42:5
 - Trials come in our lives to display the character of God, which we couldn’t see without the trials
 - Job had heard of God prior to his suffering, but it was after his suffering and the Lord’s revelation of who He is, that Job could see God.
 - When we see God and His goodness in our suffering, we worship Him and He is glorified (this is the end of all things, the glory of God)

“Beloved, let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up” Gal 6:9