

James 5:7-12

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Background

- Next week James 5:13-20 (finish the book)
- James is a book of pastoral council
 - A wisdom book
- One commentator speculated the letter is taken from sermon notes and transitions were not included
- The letter is coming to a close and James give us one last look at themes with applications

v. 7,8

- The theme: Patience
- The illustration: The farmer
 - From a Bible Dictionary: there were Fall and Winter rains
- What do you think the “therefore links back to?
- Where do you have to show patience in the Christian life?

Background from elsewhere

- James 1:2-4, James 1:12
- Look for common themes
 - What is the harvest we hope for
 - Christian character 1:2-4
 - The eternal Kingdom 1:12
- I Peter 1:4-5 We can trust God

We are like the farmer

- We toil
- We toil in hope
 - In this life Sanctification
 - In the life to come Glorification
- We have a sure hope based on the work of God in Christ Rom 5: 1-11

How do we apply this to our lives?

- The current state of the world
 - It doesn't look like we can have a conversation about issues
- The state of my life
 - In some ways I am more vulnerable
 - I have children just starting out
 - I suppose people of every age have something
- What about you?

V. 9 complaining against others

- Cf 4:11-12
- Why put this here?
 - When we are impatient we complain about others
 - We wish to vindicate ourselves by judging others
- The Judge is at the door
 - We are not the judge. God is the judge
 - He is impartial I Pet 1:17
 - We are not Rom 2:2

Complaining, Patience, Hope

- We don't want to reteach the last lesson
- What is new here
- How do patience and hope help you not complain?
 - Rom 12 the real Judge will set things right
 - We have a perspective that we don't need to be justified by the small stuff . We are justified in Christ
- **Your Thoughts? Stuff you thought about since last lesson**

v. 10,11 examples

- CF Math 5:10-12 Blessed are you when...
- Examples Jerimiah 20:1-6; 37:11-38:13
 - Ch 20 esp 8-9, 14-18
- He was persecuted, but endured
- The example of Job. What do we see?
 - Was Job suffering for righteousness sake?
 - Did Job suffer perfectly?
 - God was compassionate and merciful
 - So it wasn't Job's righteousness, but God's goodness
 - We persevere not hoping in ourselves, but God

A thought

- James is assuming the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Here is assuming that the reader knows the Old Testament stories
- Thoughts
 - For believers: this is an example of the virtue of knowing the Old Testament
 - To visitors: You have come in in the middle of a conversation. Please talk to people about questions

Job

- Job 1:8-12
- Job 2:2-8
- 19:6
- 30:15-31:8
- 42:1-7

Job's faith

- He did not doubt that God existed
- He appears to wrestle with whether God rewards those who seek him
- He keeps seeking God
- He keeps obeying God
- A distinction between saying that God has wronged him and cursing God
- Job repents at the end and God sees him as righteous
 - It is not our perseverance we trust in, but God's Grace
 - In the beginning we hope in God's Kingdom

So how do we apply this to ourselves

- Don't expect a smooth life 1 Peter 1:6-7
- Hope in the blessings that come
- Be careful (quick to listen slow to speak) when we see Brothers and Sisters in trials
- Be an example to others
- Look for good examples
- **What are your thoughts?**

Oaths

- Cf. Math 5:33-37
- Thoughts?

My thoughts

- Be the sort of person people will trust
 - If they don't trust you, let it be because of their evil
- If your yes and no doesn't convince them, will an oath?
- If you fail, let it be your failure, don't pull God into this

Gospel connections

- We serve a great King, behave like it
- God is faithful, so we should be honest and faithful
- If we are trusting God to care for us, we can be honest