

James 5:7-12

Shoe-leather Christianity

For June 22, 2008

LESSON 12

Dr. Jerry Nelson

Questions are to be completed the week of June 15 leading up to the sermon on June 22.

Patience in Suffering

Read James 5:7-12 and answer the following questions:

1. (5:7) Is James' audience the same here as in 5:1-6? Why or why not?

Is it the same as in 5:13-20?

In what ways does James 1:2-4 inform (help us to understand) these verses in James 5?

In what ways does the "Lord's Coming" encourage patience?

How does the illustration of the farmer waiting "for the land to yield its valuable crop" apply to waiting "until the Lord's coming?"

2. (5:8) What two things has James added here that he hasn't said in v7?

Since it has been nearly 2000 years since James wrote these words, what must "near" mean?

Thinking of James' words "stand firm," how is patience different than coping?

Think about it: What will the “Lord’s coming” bring to those who are suffering?

3. (5:9) Does James 4:11-12 help us in understanding this verse? If so, how?

In what way does “the Judge is standing at the door” fit with “the Lord’s coming is near?”

In light of the context of v7-8, 10ff, what might this grumbling be?

Think about it: Is this verse a threat to the grumbler?

4. (5:10) What prophets can you think of who were patient in the face of suffering?

How was that demonstrated?

How does James identify/describe prophets?

5. (5:11) What is the result for those who persevere in the face of suffering?

Is Job an example of a “prophet” (v10)? Why or why not?

What blessing(s) does James say comes from such perseverance?

6. (5:12) Does James switch subjects in v12 or is v12 related to v7-11?

How does Matthew 5:33-37 help us understand James 5:12?

Does James prohibit vows of all kinds? If not, what is James’ point?

Personal Reflection

Suffering always bears fruit; either bitterness, resentment and retaliation, or perseverance and trust in God’s justice. What has suffering produced in you?

Can you identify your greatest points of temptation when injustice occurs? Where are you most prone to sin? What will help you resist temptation?

Does your hope for the future impact the way you relate toward others when you are tempted to grumble against them? How does Christ’s eminent return equip you to live lovingly and patiently toward one another today?



Memory Verse: James 5:7-8

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.

For VerseMinder go to <http://soundliving.org/verseminder.shtml>