

James 5

Jesus

I. Rich Oppressors Will Be Judged

1 Come now, you rich, **weep and howl** for your **miseries** that are **coming upon you!**

- **Context** 4:17 To him who knows to do good/does not do it...**it is sin**
- **Recipients** v1 Rich/Powerful taking advantage of the Poor/Weak
- **Exhortation...** **Weep/Howl** as you consider heavy judgment that awaits you

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the **last days.**

- Where are we storing our treasure in these last days?

Matthew 6: 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Treasure in Heaven Heart on things of Heaven Doing for others Eternal
- Treasure on Earth Heart on things of Earth Doing for self Temporal

2 Peter 3:10b... the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the **earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness

- **All going to burn**
 1. Never saw hearse pulling U-Haul
 2. Riches cannot save your soul...

Mark 8:35 ...whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷Or what **will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

- Can't buy Heaven/Can exchange it for Hell

Luke 12:13 ...one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" 15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, '**Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;** then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Condemned for being rich? No... Condemned for not loving/trusting Jesus

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

James: Greed leads to pride leading to oppressing those with less

- **Greed** corrupts/corrodes our hearts toward God/others

Riches deceive us. Think something we are not. Treat others with Contempt

God sees/God hears

4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth [Hosts].

- Rich refused to pay workers immediately [Defrauding]
- Workers cry out to the Lord and He listens

Lord of Angel Armies listens to the Cry of the Oppressed
Holding back wages is a big deal to God

Malachi 3:5 I will come near you for judgment... Against those who **exploit wage earners....**

- Pay workers immediately...

Leviticus 19:13 You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired **shall not remain with you** all night until morning...

Deuteronomy 24:15 Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the Lord, and it be sin to you.

- **Q.** How much is enough? **A.** Rockefeller: **Just a little bit more...**

Jeremiah 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor's service without wages And gives him nothing for his work,

- God has always heard the cry of the oppressed...Special Ring Tone

Exodus 2:23b... the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their **cry came up to God** because of the bondage.

The cry of the workers has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts

5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury [Indulgence]; you have fattened your hearts as ["as" not in orig.] in a day of slaughter.

- Lived in pleasure while others you could have helped suffer

Luke 16:19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar [believer] named Lazarus,

full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be **fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table**. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then [the rich man] cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and **send Lazarus** that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' [Entitlement Mentality?] 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and **you are tormented**. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would **send him [?]** to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, **neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.**' "

- Not tormented for being rich. Tormented for not heeding the Word of God
- Every selfish penny hoarded stores up more of God's wrath

Fattening your hearts in the day of slaughter

Gods' goodness to you should have been reciprocated by goodness to others...

Romans 2:4 ... or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds"

- **Are the recipients' believers?**
 1. Those that are will repent
 2. Those that aren't will not
- **Judgment:** Rude awakening for those who could buy way out of everything
Entitlement Mentality...Exemplified in fall of Economic Babylon

Revelation 18:7 In the measure that she **glorified herself** and **lived luxuriously**, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, '**I sit as queen**, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

- We are not our own. We are bought with a price. Our lives belong to Jesus

Godless: Living as if God does not exist.

Denying the Power of His Word as the Ultimate Authority in how we live

Isaiah 47:8 "Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, '**I am, and there is no one else besides me...**' 10 "For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, '**I am, and there is no one**

else besides me.' 11 Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know.

- **Deceived by riches:** Lulled into false-security in life/Rude awakening at death

6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

**The poor do not resist you...but I will
Time to get right with the Lord who is coming soon**

James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord...8b** Establish your hearts, for the **coming of the Lord is at hand.**

SUMMARY Rich Oppressors Will Be Judged

James 5:5 You have lived on the earth in **pleasure and luxury** and have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

II. Be Patient and Persevering as we Wait

7 **Therefore** be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

- **Therefore?**

Since the Lord is coming...but not here yet

Don't become impatient which leads to godless/careless behavior

Luke 12:45 ...if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is **delaying his coming,**' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will **cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**

- **Perilous/Stressful** times demand patience as we wait...

7b... See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the **early and latter rain.** 8 You also be patient. **Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

- **Establish your heart:** Stand strong, firm, immovable

Finish what you started

Isaiah 50:7 ...the Lord God will help Me...I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My **face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.**

Luke 9:51 [Fulfilled to the end] Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly **set His face** to go to Jerusalem...

John 13:1 ... Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, **He loved them to the end.**

2 Corinthians 8:10 [Finish] It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also **must complete the doing of it**; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion...

- **Lord is at hand:** lit. has drawn near.
 1. Establish your hearts
 2. Finish what you [He] started...

Finish Well: Found loving when He comes

9 Do not grumble [groan] against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned [judged]. **Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!**

Jesus our Savior is at the door...Jesus our Judge is also at the door so...
Be patient toward one another/Stop grumbling about one another

- **Implication:** Impatience/Grumbling is...
 1. Path of least resistance
 2. Way of flesh not Spirit
 3. Temptation in these perilous days
- Sacrifice our flesh/impatience/grumbling on the Altar
- **Replace it with exhortation toward one another...**

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more **as you see the Day approaching.**

Philippians 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand.**

**Look... the Judge is standing at the door!
Be Patient while we wait...**

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of **suffering and patience.** 11 Indeed we count them blessed **who endure.**

- **OT Prophets:** Example of suffering/patience. C.f. Heb 11

Q. What kind of people do we consider to be most blessed/happy, content, established

A. Those we observe who suffered patiently through trials **trusting in the Lord**/coming out the other side in the **victory in the Lord**

No reward for quitters. Somebody always has it worse than us...

11b... You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended

by the Lord—that the **Lord is very compassionate and merciful.**

- **Perseverance:** lit. Patience of Job
- **Enduring Unimaginable Loss:** After losing all his property/children

Job 1:21 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." 22 In all this Job **did not sin nor charge God with wrong.**

- **Enduring Cruel Temptation to sin against his God...**

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job received the end intended by the Lord after persevering Restoration/Growth

Job 42:10 ...And the **Lord restored Job's losses** when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job **twice as much** as he had before.

The Lord showed Job incomprehensible compassion and mercy in a way he would not have known apart from going through suffering. [NJC]

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points **tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

- Jesus knows exactly what we are going through. What we need for victory

Hebrews 10:36 ...you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may **receive the promise...**

As we patiently endure temporal suffering
In the end the Lord will show Himself very Compassionate/Merciful

- **Context:** As we wait for Jesus...
 1. Be patient with one another
 2. Do not grumble to/about one another
 3. Establish your hearts: Set face like flint to...
 - Finish what was started
 - Finish well. No reward for quitting

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "**Yes**" be "**Yes,**" and your "**No,**" "**No,**" lest you fall into judgment [hypocrisy].

Above all? Above all James...Really?
Do what you say you are going to do.

Most relational problems would disappear if people simply did what they said they were going to do. [Burt]

Matthew 5:37 ... let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is **from the evil one.**

God is a God of Truth/Integrity...So we should be a people of Truth/Integrity
His Word is enough. Our word should be enough. **Period.**

SUMMARY Be Patient in Persevering as we wait

III. Meeting Specific Needs

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

- By the way...**Anybody suffering? Pray.**

Why is prayer our Last Resort instead of our First Response?

Pride? Unbelief? False-humility; i.e., God's too busy for little old me...

1 Peter 5:6 ...**humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

Psalms 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

13b... Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

- Suffering? Pray
- **Cheerful?** Sing

Ephesians 5:19 ... speak... to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church...

- Suffering? Pray
- Cheerful? Sing
- **Sick?** Call an Elder

14b... and let [the elders] **pray over him, anointing him** with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

- **Prayer** Interceding On behalf of the sick to **Jehovah Rofah**
- **Anointing** Surrendering Reminding us only God's Spirit can heal

Mark 6:12 [Supernatural] So they went out and preached that people should repent. **13** And they cast out many demons, and **anointed with oil** many who were sick, and healed them.

Luke 10:34 [Medicinal] ... [Good Samaritan] went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on **oil** and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took

care of him.

- **Supernatural or Medicinal:** Either way God gets glory
- **Context Supernatural:** Elders anointing in Name of Lord. God's will.

Oil: Simply a picture of the healing power of the Holy Spirit

Point of contact for releasing of faith for God to Heal

The prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up

15b... And if he has **committed sins**, he will be forgiven.

- **First things first:** Spiritual before physical healing [not set stone]

Mark 2:1 ...again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that **[Jesus] was in the house.** 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, **"Son, your sins are forgiven you."** 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—**He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."** 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

- Sins forgiven first then physical ailment cured

Sin is a possible cause of sickness/Not always [e.g., Paul]

- Jesus healed man paralyzed **38 yrs**....Seems sin is what caused his physical issue

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. **Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.**"

- Previous to healing: Jesus asks what God asks everyone...

John 5:6 "Do you want to be made well?"

- **If yes...deal with sin issue first**

Unconfessed sin can/does lead to serious physical issues

1 Corinthians 11:29 [Examine yourself] For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and **sick among you**, and many sleep.

Psalms 32:2 [David] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my **bones grew old** Through my

groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My **vitality was turned into the drought of summer**. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "**I will confess** my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Psalm 38:3 [David] There is **no soundness in my flesh** Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin... 6 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. 7 For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh.

- Like feeling nauseous but trying hold it in. **Puke it on the table...**

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

- **Confess:** ...to someone you trust

Confess sins to one another

Agree: I've sinned. Hurt God/others. **Repent.** Turn from sin to Jesus

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come** from the presence of the Lord..

Result of Confession/Repentance/Prayer?
Refreshing/Restoration/Healing

18b... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- **Unrighteousness** can hinder our prayers; e.g., way treat spouses...

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands...dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife...**that your prayers may not be hindered.**

- **Prayers of a righteous man avail much.** Righteous not perfect...

17 Elijah was a man with a **nature like ours**, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- **We all are like Elijah...** Simply vessels to be filled/used by the Lord

Reflect/Deflect glory as we see God work...

Acts 14:15 [Began worshiping Paul] We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to **the living God**, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them...

- **We can be used as Elijah:** More dinged up the vessel the more glory to God

SUMMARY Meeting Specific Needs

IV. Bring Back the Erring One

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save a soul from death** and **cover a multitude of sins.**

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a **spirit of gentleness**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Do not speak evil of them...Instead turn them to Jesus

Love them enough to humbly/lovingly/cautiously intervene

James 2:26 ... faith without works is dead

- Paul agrees with James...talk is cheap

Galatians 5:6... [What really matters is] **faith working through love.**

Book of James Review

▪ James 1

1. Greet trials as pure joy knowing God allowed them for a good result
2. Counting it all joy is faith's response to a time of trial. [Guzik]
3. Persevering in trials leads to character/soundness
4. Pray for wisdom expecting to receive
5. Qualities required during Trials: Slow to speak/Quick to hear

▪ James 2

1. James refers to ½ brother Jesus as the Lord of Glory
2. Believers in Jesus Christ must not show favoritism
3. No distinction between believers in God's Economy...All one in Christ

CRT: Christ's Reality Test: All white people are sinners. All black people are sinners. All rich people are sinners. All poor people are sinners. All people stand on level ground at the foot of a blood-stained cross. [NJC]

4. Written Law like a chain: One link breaks/Entire chain broken
5. Faith without works is dead

▪ James 3

1. Untamable Tongue: Tame it and you are perfect
2. Teachers' accountability/Everyone's accountability to our words

Matthew 12:36 ... every idle word men may speak they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

3. Natural Carnal Tongue is out of control...Weaponized by hell
4. Only victory over tongue is God's Holy Spirit
5. Heavenly vs Demonic Wisdom: Humility vs Arrogance

▪ James 4

1. Pride leads to Division/Humility to Peace
2. Who do you want as your friend...God or the World? Can't have both
3. God Resists the Proud...Give Grace to the Humble
4. Resist the Devil/Draw near to God

5. Do not Speak Evil of one another...or Judge Law/Lawgiver
6. Don't boast about Tomorrow: Sin of Presumption

▪ **James 5**

1. Those who oppress others will be judged
2. Be patient/persevering not grumbling as we wait for Jesus
3. No reward for quitters. Finish what was started. Finish well
4. Confession/Prayer/Repentance leading to refreshing/restoration/healing
5. Rescue the backslider: Saving Faith is displayed in real everyday Spirit led selfless actions

Book of James

Lord, make our days, our lives and our trials count in Your economy as we wait for Jesus

Psalm 90 [Moses] Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. 3 You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men." 4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night. 5 You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: 6 In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers. 7 For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. 8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. 9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. 13 Return, O Lord! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. 14 Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days! 15 Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil. 16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. 17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; **Yes, establish the work of our hands.**