

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 10/2/2023

James 5 – Faith. Action. Wisdom.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- God wants to give you wisdom. You don't have to be learned to have wisdom.
- **Verse 1-6** There is a difference between rich people and Godly rich people.
 - Rich people use their wealth for power. They say, "how do I get more?"
 - Godly rich people realize everything they have is because God has given it to them. Everything is about Him, so their answer is "yes" to whatever He asks them.
- **Verse 7** "Lord's coming" = When Jesus returns this world ends and we get to go to our forever home.
 - Growing season in middle east is from autumn to spring.
 - Through the summer the ground gets so hard and dry that you cannot plant.
 - Farmers have to wait patiently for the autumn rains.
 - The ground becomes soft and fertile; able to plant
 - So the farmers plant and then again wait patiently.
 - The plants grow a little for a few months and then stops for lack of water
 - So the farmers wait patiently for the Spring rains
 - When the spring rains come, everything pops up, becomes green and produces fruit
 - When Jesus came its like the autumn rains. The ground of our hearts got soft and we can grow in our faith of Him. Now we're waiting for our forever homes: the spring rains.
 - We have all been through these three seasons in our journeys:
 - We are dry and unusable. It feels like nothing works to make us grow. We say, "Lord will you do something in me for the autumn rain." We're waiting (maybe not so patiently).
 - Some of us are waiting for spring rain. We've had some growth but haven't seen any in a while. We're asking God, "when will I see results." Maybe we've had moments of growth but it doesn't feel like it matters.
 - Some of us are afraid to pick the crop. If you don't step out in faith to what you're called, it will die...you will die.
 - **Where are you, today? Be honest...confess to one another! How can your Connect Group help you through this season?**
- **Verse 8-9** "near". The Kingdom of God is in close proximity to earth. When Jesus returns He's not coming alone, he's bringing the Kingdom w/ Him to establish here: our forever home).
 - When we judge it's wrong. When God judges, it's accurate.
 - He's knocking on the door to bring His Kingdom to earth. So why are you fighting when your eyes should be on the one knocking on the door.
 - No matter where we are on our journey with Jesus, we can't lose sight of how near His 2nd coming really is.
 - You will be judged: Not always looking for something bad to judge you on, but He will judge you on who do you serve? Who have your given your life to? **If Jesus came today, how do you think He would judge you?**
- **Verse 10-11** Prophets are examples of patience in suffering.



- Jeremiah: God told him he was going to be a prophet, but no one would listen to him, he would never marry or have children. Yet he still said, “yes” to God!
- Job: God allowed Satan to make him suffer. God told Job, “I’m not here to keep you from suffering, but to be with you in your suffering.”
- **Verse 12** We think our words aren’t enough; that we have to swear on something greater. With the Holy Spirit your words ARE enough. The Holy Spirit is your integrity.
- **Verse 13** trouble = feeling of being lost, afflicted. If in trouble, pray (move toward Jesus)
 - If you’re happy, praise (move toward Jesus).
 - **Whatever you’re feeling, TAKE IT TO JESUS.**
 - Sick = completely powerless. **When you can’t take it to Jesus yourself, let someone carry you to Him.**
- **Verse 14-15** Jesus is more concerned with the spiritual (eternal) rather than physical (temporal).
- **Verse 16** sometimes when we pray it feels like God doesn’t hear us. Sometimes we have to look someone in the eye and say it out loud and be held accountable.
- We should not be afraid to pray for bold healing, even if it doesn’t happen. We are not the ones with the power to heal anyway. When we pray boldly, we are acknowledging that God can heal.
 - It’s about TRUSTING God with the outcome He chooses. HE is powerful and effective.
 - **Talk about a time when you’ve prayed for healing, regardless of the outcome.**
- Elijah – no autumn or spring rains for 3 ½ years. **Have you ever gone through a long season when it was just dry? What was it like? What/who got you out of it?**
- **Verse 19-20** The Lord wants to use you to save others. WE take them to the Lord.
 - **What sins in your life do you wish to be covered and never seen again? Confess them to someone!**
 - Turn your guilt into action, I’m going to move toward Jesus and not wander any more.
 - Wandering is moving in a direction opposite from where you should be going.
 - Satan turns your sin into guilt and shame. If you don’t take it to Jesus, you continue to wander.
- Summary of the message series: James 1:2-8, 12, 17-22
 - Faith. Action. Wisdom.
 - Pray. Worship. Be prayed over.

When we submit our life to Jesus and push through our selfishness, we begin to look more like Him and take hold of the gift of eternal life.