

KEYS TO BEING PATIENT **(James 5:7-11)**

I. Look for the Lord's coming.

- A. Notice that James says be patient until the Lord comes.
 - 1. This word patient is interesting.
 - 2. It is not the same word for patient used in chapter 1.
 - 3. That word meant to bear up under circumstances.
 - 4. This word means: "to suffer long" but involves exercising understanding and patience towards people.
- B. James says we have to learn how to properly deal with people that are treating us poorly until Jesus returns.
- C. Thinking of His return should motivate us to act right towards others, even those who treat us poorly.
- D. When studying the teachings in the New Testament about the return of Jesus, all the writers taught us to act as if His return was imminent.
 - 1. We don't know when He will return.
 - 2. However, we know He could return at any moment and we need to live as if He is coming in the next moment.
- E. James then gives us an illustration of a farmer patiently waiting for his crops to come in and be harvested.
 - 1. He plants in hope and looks for the rain, which came twice a year in Palestine.
 - 2. The first rain came in October right after crops were planted and the second came in March, which caused the grain to fill out and ripen.
- F. Just as the farmer patiently waited for what He knew God would provide, we must patiently deal with those that treat us improperly, knowing that Jesus is coming back and He will right all wrongs.
- G. Because of that fact, we are to be patient with people, strengthening our resolve to live for Jesus because He may come at any moment.

II. Remember His judgment.

- A. James started out with a positive thought about the Lord's return.
- B. He now commands us to not groan, or murmur, against those that treat us poorly because we will be condemned for it.
 - 1. We can't be impatient with others or lash back at them when we are treated poorly.
 - 2. Think of the lives these people to whom James was writing were living.
 - a. They were under pressure from those that we read about in the first 6 verses of the chapter.
 - b. They were had a great amount of stress placed on them by family for leaving Judaism and converting to Christ.
 - 3. Think how easy it would be lash out at others and find fault with others trying to make themselves feel better.
- C. Doing those things only hurts us and in no way helps us.

- D. Think about the times you've lashed back: did it really make you feel better?
- E. We need to remember the Lord that is drawing nigh from verse 8 is also a judge that is at the door or near.
- F. The same Judge who will revenge His followers will also condemn those followers for falling into sin.
- G. Be patient with others because we don't want the Judge against us.

III. Study faithful examples.

- A. James tells us something that is very useful: .look to the prophets.
 - 1. There was hardly ever a time when prophets were liked.
 - 2. They spoke for the Lord and suffered for it.
- B. Think of Hebrews 11, which, at the end of it, tells us how prophets were treated.
 - 1. They were murdered.
 - 2. Cast into prison.
 - 3. Treated terribly.
- C. They suffered and were afflicted but were patient.
- D. They didn't lash back at the people that treated them that way and we don't face nearly that amount of persecution.
- E. Looking to them for inspiration will help us be patient.

IV. Focus on the blessing.

- A. We consider people who respond properly as being blessed.
- B. The person who acts this way knows they are in a right relationship with God.
 - 1. This is not happiness based on outward situations.
 - 2. If we focused on those, we would rarely be happy.
- C. The word "endure" means: "To endure or sustain a load of miseries, adversities, persecutions or provocations in faith and patience."
 - 1. This doesn't mean dealing with something little and getting overjoyed about it because you beat stubbing your toe.
 - 2. This means dealing with great amounts of pressure and persecution and remaining faithful.
- D. We are blessed, or happy, when we do that because we know we are in a right relationship with God.
- E. Focusing on that knowledge will allow us to be patient.

V. Remind ourselves there is a purpose.

- A. James begins talking about Job and points to the end or purpose of the Lord.
 - 1. There is a purpose behind suffering and persecution.
 - 2. James mentioned this in chapter 1.
- B. Think of the life of Job.
 - 1. How much misery Job must have dealt with in a short amount of time?!
 - 2. Satan through everything He could at Job.
- C. Something we need to remember when bad things happen is that we can't blame God.

1. And we need to be careful, because sometimes we do and don't mean to do so.
 2. It is not God's will that something bad happen to us.
 3. Satan is behind all of those things in some way.
 4. Bad things happen because we live in a sinful world.
- D. Think again of Job and consider the purposes of his trials:
1. It proved his faith was real;
 2. It strengthened his faith and allowed to draw closer to God;
 3. It proved Satan was wrong;
 4. It increased Job's blessings.
- E. God can do the same for us if we will be patient.
- VI. Consider God's character.**
- A. God is extremely compassionate which is the meaning of very pitiful.
1. It comes from a word that means, "many boweled."
 2. The ancients talked of the seat of feelings being in the bowels or stomach.
 3. Have you ever heard it said, "I had a gut feeling?"
 4. God has a massive amount of compassion for those who are patient and enduring for Him.
- B. God is tender hearted towards His people.
1. He wants to bear our burdens.
 2. He knows what we are going through and wants to help.
- C. Job was blessed greatly in the latter end.
- D. We will be as well, though not necessarily in this life, if we remain patient.
- E. We can't get caught up in what this world has to offer or we won't be enduring and we won't be patient.

Idea came from a sermon by John MacArthur