



James

Living Right in a Wrong World!

Living Right Today!

James 5:7-15

Message #13 of 14 – S979

Sermon given on January 9, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Living Right Today!

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Opening Comments

- Turn to **James 5**
- Today, we continue the series: **James - Living Right in a Wrong World!**
- We all view life from three temporal perspectives – the past, the present, and the future
- Our past influences our view of reality
- If you want to live right today, you have to have a right view of your past
- If we are going to live right before God, we must view the past as it was, through the lens of faith, not through the lens of our ideology
- Our view of the future also influences our present
- For example, if you believe Jesus could come back at any moment, it will affect how you live today
- Compare that to someone who doesn't believe Jesus is coming back
- James is going to focus on choices we need to make today in response to a right perspective about the future
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us see clearly
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Living Right Today!**
- James tends to speak in imperatives – commands **James 1:2**
My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials...
- That is not a suggestion – imperative – do it! **James 1:16**
Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.
- That is another command – Don't let it happen – It is a choice
- We open our text with another one
- **James 5:7a**
- It is in the imperative – it is a command
- When God commands us to do something, we should do it, right?
- Three quick things about God's commands

- First – it is right for God to command us, and His commands are the right thing to do
- Second – God has provided everything that we need to obey His commands
- Third – With the Holy Spirit’s help we can obey all His commands
- Be patient = exhibit internal and external control in difficult circumstance, long-suffering
- Comes from two Greek words = long + temper
- When life gets hard or inconvenient or painful or frustrating, the temptation is to lose one’s temper
- James said at the beginning of the letter that patience was one of the fruits of going through trials
- We learn to be patient as we go through difficult things
- It is also one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit **Galatians 5:22-23**
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
- Longsuffering and patience have the same meaning
- No matter how hard or frustrating life might get, we can be patient
- How long do we have to be patient?
- **James 5:7b**
- You only have to be patient until Jesus comes again
- Jesus coming again is the answer for everything that threatens your patience
- Verizon insists that I must wear a mask – be patient – no one will be wearing masks when Jesus comes back
- Your spouse or kids aren’t perfect, aren’t what you expected or desired – be patient – they will be made perfect when Jesus comes back – and so will you
- Jesus is coming back – maybe soon – be patient
- James then gives us an example of patient waiting
- **James 5:17c**
- The farmer plants his seeds – he doesn’t go out the next morning to see if there is fruit to be harvested – takes time
- The ‘precious fruit’ we are waiting for is Jesus coming to get us

- Don't get caught in the spiritual trap of waiting for good to come into your life

- Instead, focus on waiting patiently for Jesus to come back and trust God to bring good into your life as He wills **James 1:17**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- James repeats himself

- **James 5:8**

- Because the Lord could come back at any moment, we should filter all our thoughts and emotions through that reality.

- The main thing is to keep our mind on Christ **Isaiah 26:3-4**

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

- As we keep our minds on the truth of God's Word, especially His promises, our minds are strengthened and established.

- Ask yourself, if Jesus comes back today, what will happen to all the things that you are stressing or worrying about?

- I have found in my own life the people I have struggled to be patient with are those who are closest to me

- The last couple years of my mom's life were a struggle

- Her health was declining, and she needed more and more of my help

- It was fairly common for us to have two or three medical appointments every week

- She was my mom and I felt it was my duty to take care of her

- I was feeling frustrated as I tried to fit her appointments into my 'super important' schedule

- The Holy Spirit convicted my heart and made it clear to me that a day would eventually come when she wasn't here anymore

- Instead of being frustrated God taught me to consider all those interruptions as opportunities to express sacrificial love to my mother

- I didn't do that perfectly, but it did bring peace to my heart when I did

- Impatience leads to grumbling – it is a sin – don't do it!

- James then gives us another example

- **James 5:10**

- Turn to **Hebrews 11**

- Living right is not always easy to do
- Sometimes doing what is right results in hardship and suffering
- The prophets were called individually by God and given messages from God to the people of God.
- Usually, these prophets were being sent to people who had turned their backs on God and were being disobedient to His revealed will and commands.
- Often these prophets were rejected, regularly persecuted, and sometimes killed.
- Hebrews 11 lists a number of people who lived by faith.
- They had the promises of God but did not see the ultimate fulfillment of the future promises.
- The writer summarizes what some of them endured
- **Hebrews 11:35b-40**
- Turn back to **James 5**
- James is saying that if they could be patient in suffering, so can we
- He then gives us another example of patience
- **James 5:11**
- Turn to **Job 42**
- Maybe you have heard the phrase ‘the patience of job’ to describe someone who has gone through something very difficult
- Job suffered for no reason that was obvious to anyone but God
- What was ‘the end intended by the Lord’?
- Many would point to
- **Job 42:10**
- But you have to back up to verse 1
- **Job 42:1-6**
- Turn back to **James 5**
- The blessing in verse 11 is not in the material things but in a deeper knowledge of the God who loves us so much
- Next comes quick exhortation to radical faith
- **James 5:12**
- James is saying that a person of real faith shouldn’t need to swear that they are speaking the truth.

- Christians should be known for radical, fearless truth.
- James has focused us on living by faith.
- As he prepares to close his letter, he includes some final expressions of faith at work.
- **James 5:13**
- Being patient doesn't mean we aren't doing something
- When we can't do anything else – we can pray. And before we do anything else – we should pray.
- If we are suffering, what should we pray? For deliverance?
- It would be better to pray for the Spirit to help us endure to the God-ordained end of the suffering and for His help to grow in our faith in the process.
- When you are down – pray, when you are up – sing psalms.
- Both are God-centric – focused on Him
- **James 5:14-15**
- No amount of faith is going to keep someone from getting sick.
- We are discovering that even the most aggressive measures aren't stopping people from getting sick.
- Vaccine mandates, mask mandates, and forced isolation, and people are still getting sick.
- So how do we protect ourselves? Be prudent and pray.
- Some might not understand the purpose or significance of 'anointing with oil'.
- The oil, in this context, is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.
- An elder anointing with oil is communicating his faith that God can heal any illness.
- By receiving the anointing, the sick person is agreeing with the elder in asking for God's healing.
- Healing comes from God through the Holy Spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – the oil only serves as a symbol of that reality.
- 'he will be forgiven' – not all sickness is a result of sin, but some is
- Before you ask God to heal you, repent of your sin
- Jesus is coming back – until He does be patient

- If you find yourself being impatient, pause and pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to see the matter through the reality of Christ's soon return
- One more Scripture and then Communion **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- Paul learned to be patient and so can we
- Pray