

JAMES 5:1-12

Real Faith Produces Genuine Humility/Patience

You Rich People: 5:1-3

1. Who are they? (Vs. 1)

- a. Are they non-Christians
 - i. Problem #1 – James 1:1b – “To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations.”
 1. Only Christians?
 2. Also Jews?
 - ii. Problem #2 – James 2:1-7 – Coming to church yet slandering and taking you to court.
- b. Are they Christians
 - i. This holds to the recipients of the letter.
 - ii. The call to repentance has church rhetoric and implications.

2. Your Earthly Wealth (Vs. 2-3)

- a. “wealth” - πλουτοζ (Gr.) – ploutos – abundance of external possessions
- b. “rotted” - σηπω (Gr.) – sepo – to become corrupt; corrupted
- c. “moths have eaten your clothes” – The Greek says it just the same
- d. “corroded” - καταιωω (Gr.) – katioo – covered with rust
 - i. Can real silver and gold rust?
- e. “corrosion” - ιοζ (Gr.) – ios – rust; venom or poison
- f. “last days” – Also has meaning as the “lowest of days”

3. The Corrosion of Your Heart(vs. 4-6)

- a. You have cheated your workers
 - i. mowers
 - ii. harvesters
- b. You have condemned and murdered
 - i. The innocent
 - ii. Your friends and work partners
- c. You sat in your ivory towers
 - i. “luxury” - τρυφωω (Gr.) – tryphao – live in pleasure
 - ii. “self-indulgence” - παταλαω (Gr.) – spatula – give one’s self to pleasure

QUESTION: What is the least amount of anything you need to live in contentment? What do you think that says about you?

Be Patient: 5:7-11

1. Be Patient until the Lord's coming (vss. 7-9)

- a. Look at the farmer
 - i. Early rain – Late October to Early November
 - ii. Late rain – April or May
 - iii. God is always on time
- b. Be like the farmer
 - i. Be patient
 - ii. Stand firm
- c. Focus on
 - i. Keep looking for the Lord's answer
 - ii. Don't compare your "lot" with others
 - iii. "grumble" - στεναζω (Gr.) – stenazo – to murmur, groan or grudge
 - iv. "judged" - κρινω (Gr.) – krino – condemned

2. Be Patient in the face of suffering (Vss. 10-11a)

- a. Examples
 - i. Prophets – **Hebrews 11:36-38**
 1. "blessed" - μακαριζω (Gr.) – makarizo
 2. "persevered" - υπομενω (Gr.) – hypomeno – to remain, not recede or flee
 - ii. Job – **Job 42:10-17**
 1. "brought about" (outcome) - τελος (Gr.) – telos – the point aimed at as a limit

3. Be Patient and you will be blessed (vs. 11b)

- a. **Matthew 5:11-12**
- b. "compassion" - πολυσπλαγχνοζ (Gr.) – polysplagchnos – extremely passionate
- c. "mercy" - οικτιρμων (Gr.) – oiktirmon – tender mercy

Above All: 5:12

1. Be You

- a. Imago Dei
- b. How God created you
- c. **Jeremiah 29:11** – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

QUESTION: What can I do to prepare to respond to things testing my patience? Do they work?

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