



JAMES

“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”

James

- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians

So Far...

- James 1
 - Perseverance Through Trials
 - Right Choiceness in Temptation
 - Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving
 - Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In
 - Reflection Reaction
 - Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith
- James 2
 - Oh Sit Down Next to me
 - Faith Must Work
- James 3
 - Power Steering the Tongue
 - Heavenly Wisdom and the Harbour of the Heart
- James 4
 - But He Gives More Grace: Winning the Battle of the Heart
 - Heart of the Law Abiding
 - A Round Tuit
- James 5
 - Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

JAMES 5:1-6

Who Wants to be a Millionaire?



JAMES 5:7-12

Be P

Be S

Be T

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

James 5:7-12

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

YES
 NO

There for?

- When you see a therefore... see what its...
- As opposed to the selfish, godless and unjust - probably oppressing and afflicting the 'brothers and sisters'
- The godless may grumble and boast, the rich may indulge their momentary desires and exploit the land and the workers...
- But we 'brothers and sisters' are to BE PATIENT



- I wonder what tests your patience?

YES
 NO

Coming Into Land!

- The letter started by talking about patience and steadfastness in suffering
- As he brings his letter into land, he returns here to a core and central theme we have seen through the pages of this James journey...
 - Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)



Coming Into Land!

- Through chapters 4 and 5 he has been giving warnings about slander, boasting exploitation and selfishness - how are **are not** to live!
- James is tying in this statement with what he has been talking about before - 'therefore'
- Here is telling us to be Patient, Steadfast and Trustworthy - how we **are** to live



Be Patient

- If we are to be patient, it must be because there is something to wait for
- Very possibly in response to oppression from the rich?
- Fruit takes time... we can nurture, encourage and feed it but we cannot force it... All in God's time?
 - The conditions are key
 - Make sure the seed is good (God's word)
 - Make sure it is in the right soil (God's direction)
 - Make sure there is water (God's Spirit)
 - Make it is where the sun can shine (God's presence)



What Are You Waiting For

- Strength?

- Wait on the Lord and you will be strengthened (Isaiah 40:31)

- Help?

- Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. (Ps 33:20)

- Provision?

- The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15)



Who Are We Waiting For?

- “Christian waiting is not waiting for something, but for someone” (New Bible Commentary, IVP)
- Creation is waiting for the KING to return
- Christ will return, and soon
- We must wait with eager anticipation
 - Working to enable His Kingdom to yield its fruit (Parable of the talents - Matt 25)
 - Ready for Him and full of His Spirit (Parable of the virgins - Matt 25)



Establish Your Heart

- Why?
- ‘Because the coming of the Lord is at hand’
- στηρίξατε (stērixate)



Establish Your Heart

- What is an established heart?
 - 4741 stērízō (from stēringks, "a support that fixes, plants down"; "to make stand") – properly, set fast (fix); give support to secure (firmly establish); solidly plant.
 - 1 Thess 3:11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.



‘Consider him that waits for a crop of corn; and will not you wait for a crown of glory?’ (Matthew Henry)

YES
 NO

Do Not Grumble

- Why?
- ‘So that you may not be judged’
 - He waits at the door
 - He sees it all!
 - ‘Can we stop all the pettiness now’ (Pastor Simon Whitley, Nov 4th 2018)

YES
 NO

For Example

- The Prophets
 - They spoke with faith and may not have seen the fulfilment with their own eyes
- We don't deny that the problems exist and cant escape the questions and pain that surround suffering, but with established hearts we can have something like the 'patience of Job'!

YES
 NO

Good Job, Well Done!

- ‘Those who remain steadfast’ = blessed
- Job chose to praise God in the midst of greater pain and suffering than any of us can imagine
- James: ‘The purpose of the Lord’
- The Lord is compassionate and merciful
 - It is hard to see it when we are surrounded, but when we still decide to say ‘May the name of the Lord be praised’ we will the bigger picture and know its true!



Be Steadfast

- If we are to be steadfast, it is because there will be challenges to endure!
- Jesus made sure we knew He knew!
 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.
- But He then told us what to do and why!
 - But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)



Be Trustworthy

- Why?
- ‘So that you may not fall under condemnation’
 - You can be tied up by your own words
 - So don’t ‘swear’ on that which you cannot control
- Instead of a traditional Geek ‘Oath’ James is telling the readers that everything we say should be trustworthy
- James echoes Jesus teaching here - using almost exactly the same words!



Be Trustworthy

- Matt 5:33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.
- If we need more than yes/no then the cause is doubt, fear, dishonesty or deception - all these come from the evil one.



Be Trustworthy

- As people of our word, a simple yes or no should suffice
- God hears every word - every thing we say should be open, honest and reliable
- We are covenant people of a covenant God
 - He is a keeper of His word, so should we be
- Be a person of your word - let your yes be yes and your no be no



Be

- Patient: Are you waiting for the right thing? Or rather, for the right person?
- Steadfast: Do you need a 'May the name of the Lord be praised' moment?
- Trustworthy: Is there a 'yes' that you need to make a 'yes' or a 'no' that you need to make a 'no' in your life?

