

SERMON OUTLINE James 5:7-11

Be Patient When Life Is Hard

BE PATIENT WHEN OTHERS MAKE LIFE HARD

What Patience in Hardship Looks Like

1. *It looks like an established heart (8)*
2. *It refuses to grumble against those who share in your suffering (9)*
3. *It remembers God's faithfulness to those who suffered faithfully (11)*

Where Patience in Hardship Comes From

1. *It comes from looking to the farmers (7)*
2. *It comes from looking to the return of Jesus (7, 8)*
3. *It comes from looking to the prophets (10)*
4. *It comes from looking to Job (11)*
5. *Ultimately, it comes from looking to the Lord (11)*

TWO DIFFERENT MESSAGES TO TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

James's main message in this passage is for persecuted Christians to be patient in their persecution. Beyond merely giving this command, however, James also told his persecuted readers what it looks like to be patient in persecution and how to do it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is your initial response when someone mistreats you? What kind of advice do you most often give when someone tells you that their boss or husband or kids or pastor or friend are acting wrongly toward them? How does this passage change, shape, or inform your answers going forward?
3. How easy is it for you to be patient with people who make your life hard? Why do you think that is?
4. What's the longest amount of time you remember being patient with someone mistreating you?
5. Which of the three aspects of patience have you found to be the most difficult (having an established heart, refusing to grumble against others, or remembering God's perfect faithfulness to the faithful)?
6. Which of James's patience-producing means of Grace have you found or do you imagine to be most helpful in your obedience to this passage (looking to the farmer, return of Jesus, prophets, Job, or the Lord's patience)? Do any of them seem especially helpful? Why/not?
7. What do you make of the fact that James did not tell the oppressed poor to do, think, or feel anything regarding the rich?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Find one specific way to begin cultivating patience toward the people who make your life harder. Determine, with the Lord's help, to stop giving into impatience when others make life hard.
10. Interview a farmer this week and ask them to describe for you the role of patience in farming.
11. Pick a persecuted prophet and study them this week. Try to identify one way they responded well to their persecution and imitate it. Try to find one way they responded poorly and avoid it.
12. Memorize a passage on God's faithfulness to bless the faithful.
13. Share the gospel with someone before God's patience runs out for them.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for being perfectly patient. Praise God for having ways that are higher than our ways. Praise God for being filled with compassion and mercy. Praise God for being perfectly faithful to bless the persecuted.
16. Confession. Confess your impatience toward those who make your life harder. Confess any grumbling you've done. Confess any ways you've handled your mistreatment in a manner inconsistent with God's Word and God's example in Christ.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for being patient with you through Christ. Thank God for giving us His word to guide us for all life. Thank God for building examples of godly patience into history and creation.
18. Supplication. Pray for anyone who has or is mistreating you. Ask God for help to be patient whenever you are mistreated. Ask God to help you see every aspect of your life through the lens of His Word rather than that of the world.