

# FAITH THAT HELPS ME HANDLE WEALTH WISELY



(As Bishop Ian Lambert is visiting there is no message transcript.  
However, Bishop Ian has provided an overview.)

## James 5: 1-12.

<sup>1</sup>Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. <sup>2</sup>Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

<sup>12</sup>Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

Three points of practical wisdom for daily living in today's passage:

- v.1-6      how we manage our resources
- v.7-11    call to patience and perseverance
- v.12      the importance of integrity in speech

### 1. Managing our resources v.1-6 – the danger of misused wealth

Jehovah Jirah (*meaning*) -----

James is NOT raging against wealth and riches – v.1-6 is not a polemic against wealth

.... What is the thrust of James main concern about wealth and riches?

Why is this warning made?

- The trap of envy
- Judgement for the selfish & ungodly belongs to God and is surely coming

#### **Questioning our own lives and attitudes:**

*listen to the Holy Spirit on this matter ....*

- How do we acquire and use our wealth?

- Are we earning honestly and sharing generously?
- Are we hoarding wealth for simply for personal indulgence, or are we using it to serve God's purposes?
- How are we with our tithes and offerings?

As Christians, we must remember that every resource we have is a gift from God and should be used in a way that honours Him, and serves others.

## 2. The Call to Patience and Perseverance v.7-11

- Patience is NOT a \_\_\_\_\_ but an **active & enduring faith**.
- We are not to be people of vengeance and wrath towards others, God has that in hand.
- Have faith in God , that all will be well, and that he has it worked out.
- Foster a spirit of unity and patience within the community (v. 9)
- Unity brings glory to God, joy, & 'commands a blessing' (Ps 133)

Patient endurance is a hallmark of true faith.

## 3. The Importance of Integrity in Speech (James 5:12)

- James is emphasizing the significance of honesty & trustworthiness in our speech - a believer should stand out by his words, as reliable and true.  
This integrity in speech is not merely about avoiding oaths but about embodying truthfulness in all our communications. The credibility of our words is critical in both our relationship with others and in our witness for Christ.

Let your YES be YES and No be NO ...be a person of integrity in speech .... WALK the TALK.

**Summary**, the letter of James is very much a mirror to our Christian lives and attitudes.

Today he has reminded us:

- we must remember that every resource we have is a gift from God and should be used in a way that honours Him, and serves others
- endurance, patience, and unity are hallmarks of our faith; and
- integrity and truthfulness in speech, is a clear witness to our Gospel

### PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matt. 6:19-21 and Luke 12:13-21. What are ways Jesus' words help us understand some of the concerns James has with treasuring or trusting in our wealth and resource?
2. In each of the sins from this section (chapters 4 and 5), how do we put something or someone else in the place of God (in becoming judge over others, boasting about tomorrow, and trusting in riches)?
3. While these passages throughout James help paint a picture of a wise, godly life to pursue, we are mindful of how often we fail and fall short. How do we rest in the work of Jesus and grow through the power of the gospel, both when we fail and as we mature?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are ways we might act as lawgiver, judge, or as God in how we judge others?
2. What's the difference between humbly discerning sin and fruit in a person's life vs judging others?
3. What are some of the misuses of wealth and worldly materialism evident in James 5:1-6?
4. What are ways we might notice materialism and trusting in wealth show up in our own hearts and lives?
5. If you had to identify which you struggle with the most from this section—judgmentalism, pride and boasting, or treasuring and trusting in earthly resources—which would it be? Why?