

James

Chapter 5

Verses 1-6 express some very harsh words against the rich for hoarding their riches and withholding the wages of their workers. They will be receiving just punishment for this.

There are a couple things in here to note. In the end of verse 3 James talks of the last days. What do you think he means by that?

In verse 6 he writes of murdering the righteous one, do you think he is talking about Jesus? Or is it a reiteration of what was said in chapter 2 about the poor and the rich?

In verses 7-12 it speaks of being patient for the coming of the Lord. Might that tie into verse 3?

What are you patiently waiting for these days?

In verse 11 he speaks of another Old Testament character – Job. What do you remember about the patience of Job?

Verse 12 stands alone as a statement against swearing, not in curse or using vulgarities, but by appealing or swearing on a higher authority like, “I swear on a stack of Bibles.”

Do you ever qualify your yes or no, or do you simply ask people to take you at your word?

What swear phrases have you ever heard? “I swear...”

In verses 13-18 we read a piece that I will use during the healing service on June 30th. It is a call to prayer and to anoint with oil. Have you participated in a healing service before or a prayer service for healing? What have been your experiences? Have you been the recipient – the one prayed over or anointed? What did that do for you?

In verse 17 James lifts up one other Old Testament character – the prophet Elijah who prayed for a drought and then for rain. Have you ever been to a service of prayer for rain in the midst of a drought?

In verses 19-20 James does not close with a final greeting like Paul does in his letters, instead he has one more thing to say. It is a call to us readers to reach out and bring back those who have wandered from the faith. Take some time to think of who you know personally that fits that description. What might you do to reach out then to them and invite them to come back?