

# WEEK 13

## JAMES 5:7-12

### READING PLAN

James 5:7-12  
Psalm 37

2 Peter 3:1-13  
Luke 6:20-35

## INTRODUCTION

After already warning those who have oppressed believers with their vast wealth and resources about the coming judgment, James now directs his attention to the church and what the response of faith should look like. He will make the case that in the face of adversity and injustice, it is only those whose hope is grounded in the coming justice of God who can look to the future in confidence. He calls the church to live patiently and to endure in light of the faithful loving kindness of the Lord. The way we respond to difficulty and injustice should reflect the reality of our profession of faith.

## REFLECTION

### BE PATIENT IN SUFFERING (VV. 7-9)

*<sup>7</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. <sup>8</sup>You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door! **JAMES 5:1-6***

Who is James writing to specifically in these verses? Highlight everywhere in verses 7-12 where James references his audience.

Go back and read James 5:1-6. In light of what was said there, why do you think James turns to the topic of patience?

What illustration does James use to show his readers the meaning of patience in verse 7?

What does James say is “near” in verses 8-9? How does that relate to the following verses?

- Matthew 3:2
- Matthew 4:17
- Matthew 10:7

#### **EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE (VV. 10-12)**

<sup>10</sup>For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy. <sup>12</sup>But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

Who does James point us toward as examples of patience? Are these biblical examples people who were ordinary and like us, or extraordinary and quite unlike us? How can we use examples from the Bible to live the way God wants us to live?

In the last sentence of verse 11, James gives us a reason that should give believers comfort and encouragement to endure their trials with hope. What is that reason?

In verse 12, James warns us to not swear oaths. Read Matthew 5:34-37. How does what Jesus says there compare with what James says here? Are they telling us we should never swear an oath under any circumstance?

Look up the following passages and note what you learn about swearing oaths. Ask: Who swears the oath? Is it sinful to do so?

- Exodus 22:10-11
- Deuteronomy 6:13
- Deuteronomy 10:20
- Isaiah 65:16
- Hebrews 7:20-22

## IMPLICATIONS

**WINDOWS** What does this teach me about God? How does this text show God's attributes, character, cares/concerns, tendencies, etc.? What does this reveal about what He's like and how He acts?

**MIRRORS** What does this teach me about myself? How does this text show my own attributes, character, likes/dislikes, tendencies, etc.?

**PICTURES** What does this teach me about the way God and mankind should interact? Look for ways we are to live and respond to God for his glory, our good, and the good of others. Specifically...

Starting today, how should I...think?

...feel?

...act?