

# DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

## LESSON NOTES

TUESDAY, MAY 12 | WARNINGS FOR THE WICKED & PATIENCE FOR THE FAITHFUL (JAMES 5:1-12)

James 5:1-12 is made of two sections:

- **Verses 1-6** = a prophetic WARNING to the wicked.
- **Verses 7-12** = a pastoral ENCOURAGEMENT to the faithful who are suffering.

### 1. A PROPHETIC WARNING TO THE WICKED

**James 5:1 (NLT)... Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.**

- James is not condemning all rich people. The Bible never condemns wealth itself.
- The issue is not HAVING wealth... it is HOW it is gained and HOW it is used.
- James is calling out a specific group: the rich who are wicked.

*If you could see what is coming for you, you would already be on your knees crying.*

### 2. WEALTH THAT BECOMES WORTHLESS

**James 5:2-3 (NLT)... Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment.**

- Even what looks most secure will fail you in the end.
- What you thought would protect you will testify AGAINST you.

The question James is forcing us to ask: Are we **HOARDING** or **STEWARDING**?

- **HOARDING** says: "This is MINE and I will keep it for ME."
- **STEWARDING** says: "This is GOD'S and I will use it for HIS purposes."

*God blesses people so they can be a blessing.*

*If your blessing stops at you... something is wrong with how you are handling it.*

### **3. THE CRIES HEAVEN HEARS**

**James 5:4 (NLT)... For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.**

- The rich cheated their workers.
- The workers had no power, no voice, no recourse... but God heard every single cry.
- Notice the title James uses for God: the LORD OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES.
- Not Father. Not Shepherd. The God who fights battles.

***You may have gotten away with it on earth...  
but Heaven is keeping a record. And Heaven has the power to act.***

### **4. LIVING FOR PLEASURE INSTEAD OF GOD**

**James 5:5-6 (NLT)... You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.**

- Like cattle being fattened for slaughter... unaware of what is coming.
- Every desire satisfied. Not thinking about eternity.
- They think the good life will last forever... but they are actually being prepared for judgment.

***Pleasure without purpose leads to destruction.  
A life of self-indulgence at the expense of others is being prepared for judgment.***

### **5. PATIENT ENDURANCE UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS**

**James 5:7-8 (NLT)... 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. 8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.**

- **The Farmer Illustration:** A farmer plants seed and then he waits. He cannot rush the rain. He cannot speed up the harvest.
- He tends. He prepares. He trusts. He waits.

**Patient endurance in waiting requires 3 things:**

- **TRUST** — believing God knows the right timing
- **WORK** — doing your part while you wait
- **HOPE** — keeping your eyes on the harvest, not the dirt

***You can endure ANYTHING when you know how the story ends.***

## **6. DON'T GRUMBLE AGAINST EACH OTHER**

**James 5:9 (NLT)... Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!**

- Look at who James warns us not to grumble against... EACH OTHER.
- When people are under pressure, they tend to take it out on the people closest to them.
- The same Jesus who is our Savior is also our Judge.

*Patience is not just about waiting on the Lord.  
It is about how we treat each other WHILE we wait.*

## **7. EXAMPLES OF PATIENT ENDURANCE**

**James 5:10-11 (NLT)... For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 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.**

- **THE PROPHETS** — spoke truth and suffered for it; faithful even when faithfulness cost them everything
- **JOB** — lost everything in a single day; endured (not perfectly, but he endured)

**The takeaway:**

- Suffering is NOT a sign that you are outside the will of God.
- Some of the most faithful people in the Bible suffered the most.
- The story did not end in the suffering... it ended in restoration.

*Your story is not over. Your suffering is not the final chapter.  
God is full of tenderness and mercy.*

## **8. LET YOUR YES BE YES**

**James 5:12 (NLT)... 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.**

- In seasons of pressure, suffering, and waiting... we are tempted to compromise our words.
- Desperation tempts us to compromise. Suffering tempts us to make deals. Pressure tempts us to say whatever it takes to get out.

**The mature believer does not need extra words to be trusted.**

- Their YES is YES. Their NO is NO.
- Their life backs up their mouth.

*Your integrity must hold steady even under pressure.*

## **THE BIG IDEA**

Two paths laid out side by side...

### **THE WICKED are storing up:**

- Wealth that will rot
- Cries that will testify against them
- Pleasure that turns to slaughter
- Judgment that is coming

### **THE FAITHFUL BELIEVER is storing up:**

- Patient endurance
- Right treatment of others
- Trust in God's timing
- Integrity that does not need to be defended

The question for each of us... Which path am I actually on?

*The Judge is standing at the door. Let's live like we believe it.*

**WRITE THE ONE THING YOU ARE TAKING AWAY TONIGHT:**