

TITLE: James (Lesson 25)

TEXT: James 5:7-12

INTRO: "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33b

- I. (vs. 7-8) "Be patient"
 - A. Persevere patiently in the face of trials and tribulations.
 - B. Persecution and injustice are temporary.
 - 1. Jesus is coming back soon and He will make things right.
 - C. Patience doesn't mean inaction for there is work to be done.
 - 1. Look to the farmer.

NOTE: He prepares the soil, plants the seed, tends the growing crop, waits for the rain and harvests the produce.

- D. To *stablish* our hearts means to strengthen and make firm.

NOTE: In contrast to the rich men in vs. 5 who hearts were fattened with the wealth and pleasure of this world. See Isa. 26:3-4

- II. (vs. 9-11) "Grudge not"
 - A. Persevere without groaning and complaining.
 - 1. We tend to lash out at others in times of adversity.
 - B. We are accountable for our attitude and speech.

NOTE: Matt. 7:1-2; 12:36-37 James dealt with the tongue in chapter 3.

- 1. The return of Christ is both comforting and sobering.

NOTE: Rev. 3:20

- C. Look to the prophets as an example of patience during times of suffering.

NOTE: Through obedience and faithfulness they were preserved not *from* suffering, but rather *through* suffering! See Matt. 5:11-12.

- 1. We count them blessed (approved by God) having endured.

- D. Look at the patience of Job.

NOTE: Job 1:20-22; 2:7-10; 42:10-13 Perseverance is not the result of understanding. It is the result of trusting God. Job 23:10; James 1:2-4, 12

- E. The Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

NOTE: Ps. 103:13-18; Lam. 3:22-26; Phil. 2:12-16

- III. (vs. 12) "Swear not"
 - A. Do not make an oath as was commonly practiced.

NOTE: Matt. 5:33-37 It easily degenerates into taking the Lord's name in vain. Ex. 20:7

- 1. Referring to an oath made in casual conversation, not in court.

NOTE: "Like boldfaced warranties with lots of fine print, these oaths were intended to create an impression of truth—but those who uttered them did not really expect to be held to them."

Life Application Bible Commentary

- B. Believers should not need to strengthen their speech with an oath.

- 1. Lest our words condemn us.