

THE BOOK OF JAMES

STUDY SEVEN – JAMES 5:7-11

1) When is patience most difficult for you? How does impatience manifest itself in your own behaviour?

Read James 5:7-11

2) James tells his readers to "be patient" twice in verses 7-8. What does the farmer image in verses 7-8 tell us about what patience looks like in practice?

3) Verse 8 says "the Lord's coming is near." How does the nearness of Christ's return change the way we're meant to wait through hard circumstances?

4) Verse 9 moves straight from patience to "don't grumble against one another." Why do you think James puts these together? What's the connection between how we handle suffering and how we treat the people around us?

5) Where in your life are you in danger of grumbling to God, or grumbling against one another due to circumstance of your life? How can you seek patience in this?

The prophets were regularly mocked, rejected, imprisoned, or worse — Jeremiah was thrown in a cistern, Elijah was hunted by Ahab and Jezebel, and other prophets were rejected and harmed when they spoke God's word. James isn't pointing to people who had an easy ride and trusted God anyway; he's pointing to people whose faithfulness and their suffering went hand in hand.

6) James points to the prophets as those who "spoke in the name of the Lord" and suffered for it (v10). How does their example show us what it looks like to boldly stand firm and wait in patience?

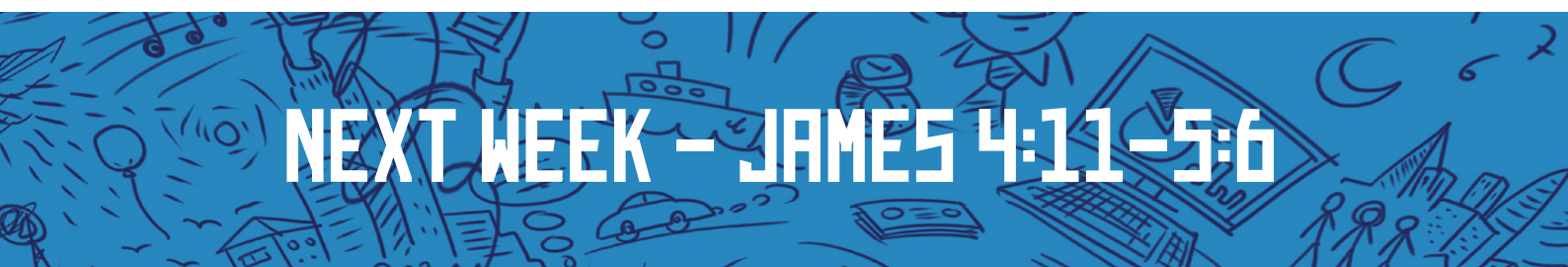
7) James uses Job as another example of patient perseverance. Job's patience is not silent. He spends most of the book questioning what is happening to Him. His patience isn't silent endurance but that Job keeps holding onto God through the questioning.

Look at the following verses in Job to see what drives his patience and perseverance.

- Job 1:21
- Job 2:10
- Job 13:15
- Job 19:25-27

If you have time also read **Job 42:1-6** to see how Job's understanding of his position compared to God's guides His patience and obedience to God even in the worst of circumstances

8) James ends verse 11 with "the Lord is full of compassion and mercy." After two examples of real suffering, why end there? What is James wanting a suffering reader to actually be looking at, or holding onto as the key to patience?



NEXT WEEK – JAMES 4:11-5:6