



# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26

# Context of James (1:2-4,12)

- Welcome trials with JOY
- Testing of faith produces endurance
- Let endurance have its perfect result
- Blessed is the man who endures
  - Demonstration of our love for God



*Faith and Patience*  
James 5:1-11

# James 5:1-12

- Test #6: How do you handle injustice?
  - Do you deal with others unjustly?
  - Have you been treated unjustly?

# James 5:1-12

1. The Sins of the Rich (1-6)
2. The Response of the Saints (7-12)

# The Sins of the Rich

- Come now, you rich
  - Not 'brethren'
  - Not part of the assembly? (2:6)
- Weep and howl...
  - Remorse in light of God's judgment

# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #1 – Stewardship (1-3)
  - Stored up your treasure (3)
    - Matt. 6:19-20; Luke 12:13-21
  - Prov. 13:22a - A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children

# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #1 – Stewardship (1-3)
  - *Money is a tool, not a treasure*
    - 1 Tim. 6:9-11; 17-19
  - *Love God, not money*
    - Matt. 22:37; Heb. 13:5-6



# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #2 – Stealing (4)
  - Withholding pay from workmen
    - Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24:14-15
    - 1 Cor. 9:3-14; 1 Tim. 5:18
  - The pay & the laborers cry out

# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #2 – Stealing (4)
  - *The Lord of Sabaoth* hears
    - Commander of the hosts of heaven; Ruler of the world
  - And He will avenge! (Prov. 22:22-3)

# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #3 – Self-Indulgence (5; see 1:11)
  - Lived luxuriously – *delicately*; soft
  - Wanton pleasure – unrestrained carnal or sensual gratification
  - *Fattened for slaughter*

# The Sins of the Rich

- Sin #4 – Slaying (6)
  - Condemned – in court (2:6)
  - Put to death – literal?
    - *Judicial Murder*

# So What?

- Hoard or Share? (Prov. 19:17)
- Business dealings?
- Is it all about you?
- Abuse the system?
  - Take advantage of people?

# The Response of the Saints

- How should God's people respond to injustice?
  - Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the [meekness] of wisdom. (3:13)

# The Response of the Saints

## 1. Be patient (7-8)

–Lit.: *long-anger* – long-tempered; restraint from yielding to passions; to forbear; to be long-suffering toward people

# The Response of the Saints

## 1. Be patient (7-8)

- “The quality of a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so” – S. Zodhiates
- Self-restraint from hasty reactions



# The Response of the Saints

1. Be patient (7-8)
  - The farmer waits patiently for the coming fruit of the earth
  - Wait patiently! Strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord
    - 2 Thessalonians

# The Response of the Saints

## 2. Be kind (9)

–Complain: *sigh; moan; groan*

•Rom. 8:23; 2 Cor. 5:2-4

–Against one another – taking out frustrations on those around us

## D. Edmond Hiebert

To walk in love with saints above  
Will be a wondrous glory;  
To walk below with saints we know—  
Well, that's another story!

# The Response of the Saints

## 2. Be kind (9)

–If you are acting out you are not long-suffering

–Subject to judgment (cf. 2:12; 4:11-12, and the Judge is very close

# The Response of the Saints

## 3. Be encouraged (10-11)

–The OT prophets

- Suffering – bearing affliction
- Patience – self-restraint
- Endurance => blessing (cf. 1:12)

# The Response of the Saints

## 3. Be encouraged (10-11)

–The endurance of Job

- Was Job patient?
- *Bear up under* (1:3-4, 12)
- Outcome [end] (1:4; Job 42:1-6)

# The Response of the Saints

## 4. Be trustworthy (12)

- Above all – this is really important!
- Do not swear / make oaths
  - Matt. 5:33-37; 23:16-22
- Calling on God as witness/support

# The Response of the Saints

## 4. Be trustworthy (12)

–Why here?

- Random?
- Recap: tongue / speech?
- Fit with context?



A: Fruit, earth, rain (7)

B: Do not complain / judged (9)

C: The Judge is standing at the door (9)

D: Spoke *in the name of the Lord* (10)

E: Above all, do not swear (12)

D': Anoint *in the name of the Lord* (14)

C': The Lord will forgive (15)

B': Confess and pray / healed (16)

A': Rain, earth, fruit (17-18)

# The Response of the Saints

## 4. Be trustworthy (12)

–Why here?

- Bit in your mouth? (3:2-3; 1:26)
- In court? (5:6; 2:6)
- Control under persecution

# The Response of the Saints

4. Be trustworthy (12)
  - Your reputation should be such that you have no need of anything beyond ‘Yes’ or ‘No’
  - Judgment – for lying or misusing God’s Name (Ex. 20:7; 16)

# So What?

- Are you a victim of injustice?
  - It's a test: count it all joy! (1:2-4)
    - God is maturing your faith
    - Are you responding in a God-honoring way?

# So What?

- “Even if he does the wrong thing, you do the right thing.”
- “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt. 7:12)