

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother **Patience — James 5:1-11**

What situation did James' readers face? (vv.1-6)

It sounds like maybe James' readers were very rich and oppressing the poor.

But v.7 shows that in vv.1-6 James is speaking judgment against those who oppressed James' readers — James' readers were the poor who were being oppressed by the rich.

So James' readers were being oppressed by the rich and powerful: they weren't being paid their wages, they were being condemned, and killed.

What does James urge his readers to do? (v.7)

To be patient until the coming of the Lord (v.7).

This is not all they should do; but it's the most important thing they should do.

This implies that things will be hard until the coming of the Lord.

And it implies that the coming of the Lord makes it all worth it.

How can we grow in this kind of patience? (vv.7-11)

Understand that there is precious fruit coming — the coming of the Lord (v.7).

Understand that God uses trials to bring us great joy in the Lord's coming (v.7).

Establish your heart with the certainty of the Lord's coming (v.8).

Trust that at the Second Coming Jesus will right every wrong (v.9).

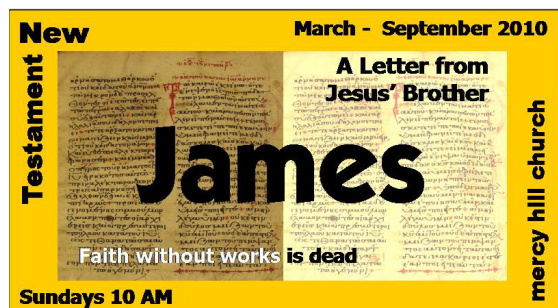
Trust that at the Second Coming we will receive great compassion and mercy (vv.10-11).

So what does this mean for us?

We need to set our hearts on the Lord's coming.

Our situation will change forever.

He will right every wrong.



Every bit of suffering in this life will translate into even more joy in Jesus forever.

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

In what trial or difficulty are you in need of patience?

What is it about the coming of the Lord that will help you be patient now? Don't settle for religious clichés. Get real specific and concrete. Think deeply about the Second Coming — and what it means for your present trials.

Pray and ask for Jesus' help to make the truth of His Return real to your soul — in a way that you feel deeply. Keep praying and thinking about the Lord's Coming until you sense patience arising.

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

New Testament **March - September 2010**

A Letter from Jesus' Brother James

Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM

mercy hill church