

James

Lesson 8

“Therefore be patient, brethren,
until the coming of the Lord.”

James 5:1-12

Introduction

- Often, we see conflicts between those who are rich and those who are not
- Although being rich is not evil in and of itself, it brings great responsibilities and temptations
- Unless the rich are guided by the gospel, they can become oppressive resulting in mistreatment of the poor
- When these trials come, Christians may be tempted to act in ways that are sinful ²

Introduction

- James warns that we must be patient when oppressed
- We must place our trust in a just and merciful Lord who brings judgment on those who do not repent, even the rich
- Judgments may come in the form of national judgments as well as the final judgment day when all individuals are judged

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“Therefore be patient, brethren,
until the coming of the Lord.”

1. It is possible to be righteous and rich
2. Oppressive selfish rich will be judged by the Lord 5:1-6
3. Christians must be patient during these trials 5:7-12

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It Is Possible To Be Righteous And Rich

- Being rich is not evil in and of itself
- Some great men and women of faith were rich like Job, Abraham, David, Barnabas and Lydia
- But, Christians are warned not to pursue wealth for wealth itself
- They are also commanded if they acquire wealth to use it for the benefit of others not just for themselves

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Wealth Should Not Be Desired Or Pursued

1Ti 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

1Ti 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

6

Wealth Should Not Be Desired Or Pursued

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1Ti 6:11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

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Wealth Should Not Be Desired Or Pursued

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

8

If We Are Blessed With Wealth, We Are To Help Others In Need

1Ti 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1Ti 6:18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

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If We Are Blessed With Wealth, We Are To Help Others In Need

1Ti 6:19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

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Oppressive Selfish Rich Will Be Judged By The Lord

- James writes of a coming judgment against certain people who are rich
- Their condemnation comes because they oppressed others to gain their wealth
- They also used the wealth they gained for selfish luxurious living
- Although James probably refers to a national judgment, unless they repent, an eternal torment awaits them

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Oppressive Selfish Rich Will Be Judged By The Lord

Jas 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

Jas 5:2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

Jas 5:3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

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Oppressive Selfish Rich Will Be Judged By The Lord

Jas 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Jas 5:5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

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Oppressive Selfish Rich Will Be Judged By The Lord

Jas 5:6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

14

Unjustly Oppressing Others To Gain Wealth Is Sinful

Deu 24:14 "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns.

Deu 24:15 "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

15

Unjustly Oppressing Others To Gain Wealth Is Sinful

Pro 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures, Both of them are abominable to the LORD.

16

Living A Selfish Luxurious Life Is Sinful

Amo 4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring now, that we may drink!"

Amo 4:2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, "Behold, the days are coming upon you When they will take you away with meat hooks, And the last of you with fish hooks.

17

Living A Selfish Luxurious Life Is Sinful

Amo 6:4 Those who recline on beds of ivory And sprawl on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall,

Amo 6:5 Who improvise to the sound of the harp, And like David have composed songs for themselves,

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Living A Selfish Luxurious Life Is Sinful

Amo 6:6 Who drink wine from sacrificial
bowls While they anoint themselves with the
finest of oils, Yet they have not grieved over
the ruin of Joseph.

Amo 6:7 Therefore, they will now go into
exile at the head of the exiles, And the
sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.

19

God Often Uses Nations To Punish Injustice

Mic 2:1 Woe to those who scheme iniquity,
Who work out evil on their beds! When
morning comes, they do it, For it is in the
power of their hands.

Mic 2:2 They covet fields and then seize
them, And houses, and take them away.
They rob a man and his house, A man and
his inheritance.

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God Often Uses Nations To Punish Injustice

Mic 2:3 Therefore thus says the LORD,
"Behold, I am planning against this family a
calamity From which you cannot remove
your necks; And you will not walk haughtily,
For it will be an evil time.

21

God Often Uses Nations To Punish Injustice

Mic 2:4 "On that day they will take up
against you a taunt And utter a bitter
lamentation and say, 'We are completely
destroyed! He exchanges the portion of my
people; How He removes it from me! To the
apostate He apportions our fields.'

22

God Often Uses Nations To Punish Injustice

Mic 3:12 Therefore, on account of you Zion
will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will
become a heap of ruins, And the mountain
of the temple will become high places of a
forest.

23

God Often Uses Nations To Punish Injustice

Mat 24:1 Jesus came out from the temple
and was going away when His disciples
came up to point out the temple buildings to
Him.

Mat 24:2 And He said to them, "Do you not
see all these things? Truly I say to you, not
one stone here will be left upon another,
which will not be torn down."

24

Eternal Torment Will Come If There Is No Repentance

Luk 16:19 "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.

Luk 16:20 "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,

Luk 16:21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

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Eternal Torment Will Come If There Is No Repentance

Luk 16:22 "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

Luk 16:23 "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

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Eternal Torment Will Come If There Is No Repentance

Luk 16:24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

Luk 16:25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

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“Therefore be patient, brethren,
until the coming of the Lord.”

1. It is possible to be righteous and rich
2. Oppressive selfish rich will be judged by the Lord 5:1-6
3. Christians must be patient during these trials 5:7-12

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Christians Must Be Patient During These Trials

- When we are oppressed by others, it is a common temptation to react in a sinful way
- We might think of retaliating and seeking revenge
- Or, at the least, we might envy the rich
- Armed with the belief that the Lord cares about us, will provide what we need and will judge all who are disobedient including the rich, we are to be patient and trust in the Lord

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We Must Not Rejoice When Judgment Comes Against Others

Pro 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;

Pro 24:18 Or the LORD will see it and be displeased, And turn His anger away from him.

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We Must Not Envy Those Who Are Rich and Oppress Others

Psa 37:1 A Psalm of David. Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.

Psa 37:2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

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We Must Not Resist Those Who Are Rich and Oppress Us

Jas 5:6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

Rom 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

1Pe 2:19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

1Pe 2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

1Pe 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1Pe 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

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We Must Not Pay Back Evil With Evil But With Good Trusting In The Lord To Judge

1Pe 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

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Christians Must Be Patient During These Trials

- James writes we must be patient (meaning longsuffering or long-tempered) when we are oppressed
- We must restrain ourselves and look to a just, loving, merciful God who judges righteously at the right time
- We should not speak against one another when these trials come knowing that the Lord is still in control of all

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Christians Must Be Patient During These Trials

Jas 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

Jas 5:8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

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Christians Must Be Patient During These Trials

Jas 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Jas 5:10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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**We Must Be Patient (Longsuffering)
Like The Farmer and The Prophets**

Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

Heb 11:33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

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**We Must Be Patient (Longsuffering)
Like The Farmer and The Prophets**

Heb 11:34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Heb 11:35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;

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**We Must Be Patient (Longsuffering)
Like The Farmer and The Prophets**

Heb 11:36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

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**We Must Be Patient (Longsuffering)
Like The Farmer and The Prophets**

Heb 11:38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Heb 11:39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

Heb 11:40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

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**We Must Not Complain and
Grumble Against One Another**

Php 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

Php 2:15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

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**We Must Not Complain and
Grumble Against One Another**

Php 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

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Job's Endurance An Example to Encourage Us To Endure

- Instead of the word patience that means longsuffering, James refers to Job describing him as enduring trials
- This word means to stand up under trying circumstances
- These trials come, even oppression from others, to make our faith complete

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Job's Endurance An Example to Encourage Us To Endure

Jas 5:11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

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Trials Given That Our Faith Might Be Made Complete Through Endurance

Jas 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
Jas 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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Avoid Oaths and Honestly Speak and Stand By Your Word

Jas 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

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Pray to The Lord During Oppressive Trials

Jas 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.
Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

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