WEEK 8 STUDY GUIDE

James 5:1-12

November 5, 2017



The book of James: Disciple

As you study each day, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God has said through James, and how that understanding can influence your walking in God's way.

In this chapter James continues his investigation of wealth. In Chapter 1 he urged a person who is rich to *take pride in his low position;* in Chapter 2 he warns against favoring the rich; in Chapter 4 he warns against pursuing profit without consideration of God; and here he utters very strong warnings to rich people who are not Christians. He also provides guidance and urges patience and perseverance for those oppressed by harsh rich overlords, probably the large land-owners typical of his day.

DAY 1: Read James 5:1-2

1.	Both 4:13 and 5:1 begin "Now listen." Do you find any other connections between these two sections?
2.	If you are puzzled or shocked by the vigor of James's language, find parallels in the Old Testament. (Job 13:28; Isaiah 50:9; Ezekiel 30:2)
3.	How do these verses still have relevance even though the specifics do not at all apply today? (Our stocks or real estate probably haven't rotted, and we do have moth balls.)

DAY 2: Read James 5:3-4

1. What is James saying about the corrosion of gold and silver (which doesn't happen), as evidence against the rich particularly when they hoard? What does James mean by the phrase "eat your flesh like fire"? Is this too shocking to read to children?

Verse 4 speaks about workers who have not been paid by their wealthy employers. In our own society, have you heard of workers not being paid for the hours they have worked? When this happens to the poor, what redress do they have? What responsibilities do we as disciples or followers of Christ have to address these problems? (Psalm 12:5)
3: Read James 5:5-6
James is quite critical of wealthy people in these verses. What reasons or justifications do rich people offer for treating people—including other Christians—this way? If a homeless person made this accusation today, how would you answer?
How can we be implicated in misdeeds done both intentionally and unintentionally? What light does James 4:17 shed on this?
4: Read James 5:7-9
Why does James counsel us to be patient in our suffering? If you were among the oppressed referred to in verses 4-6, what Christian resources would be available to you?
What does James write about the time factor related to the Lord's coming? How should your answer to this question affect your hope in a time of trial? (See also Matthew 6:27 and Titus 2:13.)
Once again James peers into what we are talking about, even in a time of trial or oppression. In such a time, how can we avoid complaining, griping, or blaming someone for our misfortune? How is this verse an illustration of James 1:26?

DAY 5: Read James 5:10-12

1.	Why would James use "the prophets" as an example of those speaking in the name of the Lord who had to be patient? Why would "those who have persevered" be considered blessed?
2.	Why did Job have to persevere, and what "did the Lord finally bring about"?
3.	While verse 12 seems like a non-sequitur, can you find a connection with the preceding verses? Why is the integrity of your word so important to James?
4.	Why would James begin verse 12 with the words "above all"? What is the significance of that phrase?
DAY 6	: Reread James 5:1-12
1.	Think of one of God's teachings in these verses that is of special meaning to you personally and memorize the verse.
2.	James always wants us to move from Bible study to incarnational action. What are you moved to do as a disciple of Christ because of this passage?