



James 5

May 5

OVERVIEW: [James](#)

CONTEXT: James was the brother of Jesus (Mk 6:3) and a pillar of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:17, 15:3,); even a mentor to Paul (Acts 21:18). After years of leadership he was martyred in the Temple by stoning and clubbing shortly after Paul went to Rome (c. AD 62), during a period of political instability (see Eusebius' *Church History*, 2. 23). Probably near the end of his life he wrote what has been known as the Proverbs of the New Testament. What does it mean to live wisely as one follows Jesus? Drawing from Proverbs and the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) James sets forth many themes, all introduced in ch. 1. Our passage this week nicely complements the sermon from this past Lord' Day. We'll consider warnings to the rich and encouragements to the poor.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (James 2:1-13)

- Why ought Christians not show partiality, as rooted in the character of God and the Gospel?
- What is the sin of partiality and how was it affecting James' community?
 - What about us today?
- Other take aways from James?

READ: James 5:1-10

QUESTIONS:

1. *In ch. 4 James speaks to entrepreneurs, now he speaks to landowners.* This may be in a general sense, but given his talk of the sin of partiality do you think he may have been addressing wealthy Christians too?
2. *In vv. 1 James quotes the prophets (i.e. Isa 13:6) and Jesus (Mt 6:19-21, 24).* **What are they/he saying about mammon? What wisdom does 1 Ti 6:10 add? Is mammon inherently bad? How can we be watchful and good stewards of these resources in our hearts?**

3. Aside from trusting in riches, what great crime had these committed? (v. 4-5a)
4. **How does v. 5 echo Jesus' words in Mt 6:2 (Rev 19:17-21)?**
5. V. 6- Why wouldn't the Christian poor not resist the rich (Mt 5:38-40)?

READ: James 5:7-11

QUESTIONS:

6. *Our second passage echoes key themes from ch. 1 (vv. 2-4, 9, 12+, etc) as James addresses the Christian poor specifically and suffering Christians more generally.*
7. V. 7- How may they have been tempted to take matters into their own hands? What does James command them to do and wait for? **How will this event alone vindicate them?**
8. **V. 8- Why is James concerned about their hearts (Pr 4:23)? In suffering or adversity, what can we tend to feel/think/do? Why is our call to trust the Lord?**
 1. Share a personal example.
9. **V. 9- How does grumbling flow from our heart (see above)? Why is it unhelpful, for ourselves, for others? (even think of Israel in the Wilderness).**
10. *Two positive examples to the contrary are offered that we should follow:*
 1. *The Prophets (Heb 11:33-38)*
 2. *Job (1:21, 2:10, Job 40:4-5, 42:1-6)*
11. **How did the Prophets and Job patiently enduring hardship, trusting in the Lord?**
12. Is there a trial you are suffering under, ask the Lord/ your LG to pray for you in this.

NEXT TIME: May 12, Gal 2:1-11