

Wisdom About Enduring Suffering (James 5:1-11)

1. God sees Oppressors and will reward them appropriately. (James 5:1-6)
 - a. James comes back to this topic of the proper use of wealth (1:9-10, 27; 2:1-13). Here, he focuses on the wealthy who have the means to pay people but have defrauded their employees of their wages.
 - b. No matter how much wealth you may have, your wealth is poverty if it is used in an immoral and ungodly fashion.
 - c. God hears the cries of those who have been defrauded of what is just. This is the pattern of God from the beginnings of his covenant (Exod 22:21-27).
 - d. Even if we are not in the position to employ others, dishonesty is never rewarded by God. We have to ask ourselves, do we treat others, parents, children, family friends, those whom we owe, like we want to be treated.
2. God demands that we be patient and wait on his justice in the face of evil. (5:7-11)
 - a. The believer who is oppressed must wait until harvest comes. When the faithful plant, he or she will receive the great harvest in the coming of the Lord.
 - b. Since the Lord is near, we cannot take our frustration out on one another. The Lord is at the door.
 - c. The prophets, Job, and Jesus himself were examples of faith and endurance. We should use them as models to know we can make it.