

James: Living with the End in Sight

(James 5:1-11)

A Warning to the Wealthy (v. 1-6)

- James gives a word of warning against those who are wealthy
 - A reflection of the words of the OT prophets (Isa. 10:10; 13:6; 14:31; 15:2-3; 16:7; 23:1, 6, 14; 24:11; 52:5; 65:14; Jer. 2:23; 31:20, 31; Ezek. 21:17; Hos. 7:14; Amos 8:3; Zech. 11:2)
 - And those of Jesus (Matt 6:19-21)
- The warning is not strictly about wealth but how one uses it
- The warning is against:
 - Hoarding rather than helping (v. 3)
 - Not paying fair wages (v. 4)
 - Investing in earthly pleasure rather than God's eternal kingdom (v. 5)
 - Using wealth for injustice
- All these things lead to God's judgment

The Need for Patience (v. 7-11)

- James reminds us to be patient
 - Patience (*makrothumia*): Long-suffering
 - Patience involves waiting & suffering
 - Like a farmer works & waits for their crops to ripen (v. 7b)
- In patience, we wait for God's timing & judgment
 - Thus, we should avoid complaining about one another
 - Which is us taking up judgment
- Examples: OT prophets & Job, who persevered in suffering (see Job 1:21, 22: 2:10; Heb 11)
 - Perseverance: Not giving up & remaining faithful
 - These remind us of God's compassion & mercy

So What?

- How are we using our wealth?
 - Are we generous & investing it in God's kingdom?
- Are we seeking God to grow us in patience & perseverance?

Meditation Verse: James 5:8