

# *James Chapter Five*

## *Study Hand Out*

### **Warning to Rich Oppressors**

“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. <sup>2</sup> Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.<sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. <sup>4</sup> Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. <sup>5</sup> You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

### **Patience in Suffering**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those

who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

<sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

### **The Prayer of Faith**

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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**James 5:1-20 (ESV)**

## Practical Study Time

5:1-6 Main point:\_\_\_\_\_

1. What seems to be the cause of their “misereries?”

“Let Scripture interpret Scripture”: “He swallows down riches and vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly.” (Job 20:15)

5:7-12 Main point:\_\_\_\_\_

1. What does James mean by asking the brothers and sisters to be patient?
2. In verse 8 James says, “the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Was James wrong that it would be so soon? What was James referring to?
3. In light of the context, why does James warn against “grumbling against one another?”

4. Noticing verse 11, what is “the end” that James is referring to?
5. What does the taking of oaths (swear), found in verse 12, have to do with this context?
6. What is the practical application of verse 12? Does this verse teach that we are not to make an oath or swear?

“Let Scripture interpret Scripture”: “...if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” (Romans 8:25)

5:13 - 20 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the purpose of “anointing with oil?” (Check a Bible dictionary for help, or concordance for other places in the Bible where this is spoken of).
2. How does confession help us overcome trials and temptations?
3. What do we and Elijah have in common?

4. What is the purpose of the example of Elijah? What are we to learn from Elijah?

**“Let Scripture interpret Scripture”**: “...They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire...” (Revelation 11:6)