

**James**  
**Women's Bible Study Revised 2022-23**

**Lesson 13: James 5:1-20**  
*Final Wisdom from James*

<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it. Until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brother, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**1) As James closes chapter 4, he is speaking of speech and its impact on behavior. Chapter 5 begins with our actions and attitudes regarding material wealth. Read James 5:1-6, 1 Tim. 4:17-19, and Luke 16:10-13 and answer the following questions:**

- ***What is the definition of rich?***

- *Is it a sin to be rich? Explain your answer using these or other passages of Scripture.*

**2) Read James 1:1. Compare James 1:1 with any of the greetings in Paul's epistles (examples: Ephesians, Colossians, Romans). To whom was Paul writing? To whom was James writing?**

**3) Reread James 5:1-6, James 2:5-7. Knowing to whom James was writing, were these rich Jews (in Ch. 5) "the saints", etc.?**

**4) How would you characterize the tone of this passage in James 5:1-6 compared to the rest of the letter?**

**5) Are there warnings for believers in Christ in these passages about riches? What are they?**

**6) Read v. 7. James calls out the sinners (5:1-6) and then gives hope to the believers in these next verses. The believer is to be patient. What does it mean, "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord"? Think about what James talked about through most of the letter. Why would believers be impatient?**

**7) How do the farmers wait? How does that compare to how we, as believers, are to wait?**

**8) What do the farmers wait for? How does that compare to what we, as believers, are waiting for?**

***9) What is the farmer's encouragement in waiting? How does that compare to what we, as believers, are encouraged by?***

***10) What are the benefits of patience?***

**11) James 5:9. Grumbling is in direct opposition to patience. Can you give an example of this type of grumbling?**

**12) When a believer grumbles against another believer, what is the grumbler saying (in a manner of speaking through his behavior) to God and to the world?**

**13) Just as 5:9 is a continuation of the encouragement to be patient, so are verses 5:10-11. How do these verses relate to Ch. 1:2-4?**

**14) James reminds us again about how important our speech is in 5:12, but is this verse related to speech only? Explain your answer?**

**15) As we turn to James 5:13-18, we have to remind ourselves that James is referring to the main theme of this epistle – trials, sufferings and persecution. What is our proper reaction to be in our different states of trials, etc.?**

**16) Read James 5:19-20. If we believe Ephesians 2:8-9 is true, what does James mean in v. 19 by “let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering...”? Do I have the power, as a believer, to bring a sinner back from his wandering? (Support your answer with Scripture).**

**17) What are some ways that we can “bring a sinner back”?**

**18) Now that we’ve finished our study of James’ letter, take this opportunity to reflect on the lessons that you’ve learned. What lessons have you or will you put into practice? Most importantly, what did you learn about Christ during this study?**