

James 5:1-20 **Edification through Admonition and Counsel** (continued)

Warning the Rich Oppressors

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire.

You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

Be Patient and Persevering

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not Grumble

⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

Example of the Prophets

¹⁰ My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. ¹¹ Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Do not Swear

¹² But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Pray – Sing – Call the Elders to Pray for the sick

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Confess & Pray

¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Example of Elijah

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Bring Back the Erring One – Save a Soul from Death

¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

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Facts Revealed:

Warning the Rich Oppressors [James 5:1-6]

- ✚ Those who gain their wealth by oppressing the poor have much to weep about.
 - ✧ Wealth of this earth is transitory at best.
 - ✧ It will not benefit a person in the end when he faces the Judge of all men.
 - ✧ Unrighteous accumulation of wealth will be a testimony against the soul of the man.
 - ✧ The destiny of the soul is of the greatest value in the heart of God Who said:
 - Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this,
 - That they would consider their latter end! [Deuteronomy 32:29]
- ✚ You have heaped up treasure (reward) for the last days. [James 5:3]
 - ✧ The oppressive sins of the wicked rich are: [James 5:4-6]
 - ✧ Withholding wages from the workers.
 - ✧ Luxurious living at the expense of others. [Luke 16:19-31]
 - ✧ Violent injustice; You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.
 - ✧ The wicked have their place in the eternal Lake of Fire. [Matthew 18:8-9, 25:41, Mark 9:42-48, Revelation 20:15]

Be Patient and Persevering [James 5:7-8]

- ✚ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. [James 5:7]
 - ✧ The farmer waiting for the harvest is sited as an example of patient endurance.
 - ✧ The coming of the Lord is our call to commit our hearts to faithful endurance.

Do not Grumble [James 5:9]

- ✚ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned.
 - ✧ Grumbling against one another is not edifying and leads to wrath.
 - ✧ We do not know the time of the Lord's return and the day of Judgment, so we need to be expecting it to happen at any time as our motivation for continuing faithfulness.
 - ✧ The blessed reward goes to the one who is found living godly and doing the will of the Lord when the Lord does come. [Matthew 24:45-51, Luke 12:42-46]

Example of the Prophets [James 5:10-11]

- ✚ My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. [James 5:10]
 - ✧ Through the history of Israel, the prophets all suffered rejection and were often persecuted and martyred for their stand for the word of God.
 - ✧ When it comes to patience, the story of Job is the paramount example, because it shows the reward of God in the end.
 - ✧ The conclusion is, that God is very compassionate and merciful in the end and the reward makes all the struggle worthwhile.

Do not Swear [James 5:12]

- ✚ The command is to avoid adding profanity to a yes or no answer.
 - ✧ Embellishing a yes or no answer with profanity will lead to judgment where we will be called to account for every idle word spoken. [James 5:12, Matthew 12:34-37]
 - ✧ "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no." [James 5:12, Matthew 5:34-37]

Pray – Sing – Call the Elders to Pray for the sick [James 5:13-15]

- ✠ Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him **pray**.
- ✠ Is anyone **cheerful**? Let him **sing psalms**.
- ✠ 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.
 - ✧ The prayer of faith will **save** the sick, and the Lord will **raise him up**. And if he has committed sins, he will be **forgiven**. [James 5:15]
 - ✧ The saving here is connected with forgiveness of sin, spiritual salvation and resurrection in the end.
 - ✧ God may grant physical healing also, but the focus is on the end.
 - ✧ Many times in Scripture, God granted physical healing, and many times He did not.
 - ✧ The destiny of the soul is the important consideration.

Confess & Pray [James 5:16]

- ✠ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
- ✠ The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - ✧ Confessing of sins is a sign of humbling of self to which God favorably responds.
 - ✧ The prayer of the righteous man is a prayer based on love for both God and the sick.
 - ✧ Use of the words effective, and fervent expresses the deep heart cry of love.
 - ✧ God looks at the heart and responds accordingly.

Example of Elijah [James 5:17-18]

- ✠ Elijah is the example of effective prayer.
- ✠ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. [James 5:17-18]
 - ✧ Elijah was a man just like us, but was used by God effectively.
 - ✧ Elijah prayed (spoke) according to the Will of God. [1 Kings 17:1 -- 18:45]
 - ✧ We have the assurance that; if you ask anything according to the Will of God, we can be certain of a favorable response. [1 John 5:14-15]

Bring Back the Erring One – Save a Soul from Death [James 5:19-20]

- ✠ Brethren, if **anyone among you wanders from the truth**, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who **turns a sinner from the error of his way** will **save a soul from death** and cover a multitude of sins. [James 5:19-20]
 - ✧ The subject is a **believer** in the church who has **strayed from the truth** becoming a sinner again, and having lost his salvation is **heading toward the death of his soul**.
 - ✧ Another believer has called the sinner to repentance.
 - ✧ The repentant sinner has again been **saved from the death of his soul**.
 - ✧ The multitude of his sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus because of his repentance.
 - ✧ Until the day of Judgment, God holds out the offer of Salvation to anyone who repents and turns to Him for Salvation through Jesus our Lord.
 - ✧ God has no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but calls the sinner to repentance so he can find eternal life. [Ezekiel 18:23, 30, 32, 33:11]
 - ✧ The Gospel message calling sinners to repentance appears 58 times in the New Testament, indicating its importance.