Amman International Church—Jordan Dr. Rick Griffith

14 May 2022 Message 12 of 13

NLT 40 Minutes

Title

**God’s Path to Patience**

***James 5:1-12***

**Topic:** Suffering

**Subject:** What is God’s path to patience?

**Complement:** Don’t exploit others but work towards Christ’s return.

**Purpose:** The listeners will patiently wait on God in an area where they presently struggle.

**Attribute:** We worship the God of Patience

**Reading:** James 5:1-12

**Song:** Is He Worthy? & There is a Higher Throne (closing)

# Introduction

### Interest: What are you waiting for? Marriage? The salvation of a loved one? Return of a prodigal? Financial stability? Are you already waiting for me to end this sermon?! Are you waiting *patiently* for God to work? Patience is not about how long one can wait, but how well one behaves while waiting.

Prayer

Want it?

Patience

Waiting

### Need: How many of you want to be more patient?

#### Do you find yourself living in the past when patience wasn’t needed as much?

#### Or are you living in the future when you think you won’t need patience as much as you do now?

#### Do you pray for patience? You shouldn’t! God will give you opportunities to see this quality developed in you!

What area?

#### So what do you need to be patient about? Raise your hand if something comes to mind.

#### OK, that is not very many of you. Either you have genuinely solved all your problems or you haven’t thought of an area yet.

• Humility

Chart

Path?

#### Do any of you need the patience to grasp Arabic? Does anyone here need patience while driving on the roads? Does nothing at work or home challenge your patience?

#### What do you need to be patient about? ***Now*** raise your hand if something comes to mind.

#### Keep that issue in mind as we look at God’s Word today to answer this question…

### Subject: What is God’s path to patience? In other words, *how can you be patient during suffering?*

### Background: Impatience is not a modern problem! Like us, the people James wrote to were their rich and poor, impatient and patient personality types—just like us!

#### In his epistle to Jews spread throughout the Roman world, James has touched on many practical areas before we get to chapter 5 today.

#### Last week we saw that James told his readers to be humble in chapter 4 ending with Dan’s message on “The Subtle Art of Self Rule”:

Self-Rule

##### Don’t fight other believers (4:1-10).

##### Don’t judge others (4:11-12).

#### So today we get into James 5 on patience.

#### But patience needs a definition. What is patience?

Defined

##### One definition is “the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.” It comes from the Greek *hupomeno*, meaning “to remain under.”

Synonyms

Path

• Two

##### Synonyms include endurance, forbearance, steadfastness, steadiness, fastness, tolerance, hardiness, and resistance.

Patients

##### Interesting how we call those that the doctor treats “patients.” Maybe that is because the doctor needs to show patience with his patients. Or maybe it is because the doc is *practicing* medicine so the patient needs patience! Anyway…

Practicing

Patience

### Preview: Today we’ll see *two ways to be patient*. We will first see what NOT to do and then what TO do. My outline of James 5 divides today’s verses into two sections.

#### Warnings against the rich oppressors (5:1-6) are first.

#### Encouragements to endure suffering (5:7-12) come next.

#### These seem at first to be two separate sermons.

#### But the common theme between them both is to be patient.

### Text: James 5:1-12 provides many commands that seem to hit on many miscellaneous subjects, but I think the common idea of them all is the way of patience.

What waiting?

Four Types

Warnings

MP

(So keep in mind that area where you want God to make you more patient as we study James. So what is God’s path to patience? How can you be patient during suffering? First…)

# I. Don’t exploit others (1-6).

[Don’t take advantage of others while impatient.]

## God warns rich oppressors that the riches they trusted would be ruined when Jesus returns (1-3).

### These warnings to the wealthy comprise the first six verses of James 5.

### There are four types of people, economically speaking.

• P&P

#### Spiritually poor & materially poor

• R&R

#### Spiritually rich & materially rich

• R&P

#### Spiritually rich & materially poor

• P&R

#### Spiritually poor & materially rich—James addresses this last group.

1

### They should cry (1). But why?

1-2

• Moth

### Their wealth won’t last (1-2)—including clothes and treasures.

3

• Rust

### Their assets will become liabilities that witness against them (3)—even gold that does not rust will corrode!

4

## The reason God will judge the wealthy is their exploitation of powerless workers (4-6).

### Landowners knew that the Mosaic Law commanded them to pay their workers before sunset.

Land owners

### But these rich employers refused to pay their workers and even condemned and murdered some of them!

How fail?

### These fat exploiters are likened to fattened animals ready for the kill (5-6).

5-6

### These were probably older folks because the young spend their health to get wealth, but the old spend their wealth to get health!

Young & Old

How Get Wealth

Poor

(3 slides)

7

7b Farmer

Exodus

Worse

10

### Sadly, some pastors are even false teachers intent on wealth (read slide).

Prosperity Theology

### People get rich through legitimate means—like hard work. But James rebukes those whose wealth comes by exploiting others.

### But my own experience with poor pastors throughout most of the countries of Asia on 73 teaching trips has shown me that they are the choicest servants of Jesus.

Subject

(So do not use your position to take advantage of others. That is being patient! So how else can we be patient during suffering in God’s path to patience? We have seen what NOT to do—don’t exploit people. Now let’s see what TO do…)

MPI

# II. Work towards Christ’s return (7-12).

MP

[Serve in light of Jesus vindicating you when he comes back.]

## ***Work*** in light of your reward at Christ’s return like a farmer awaits rains and harvest (7-8).

### Verse 7 encourages the rest of us—those not so impatient that we take advantage of others.

### Few of us are farmers who have to wait for the seasonal rains—but we understand that the rains came twice yearly and led to a harvest.

### Sadly, we have huge problems right now due to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Putin

#### The exodus of more than 5 million means fewer workers on the fields as they anticipate the harvests.

#### So the supply issues we face now will get worse.

#### This applies to us since 40% of wheat supplies come through the Black Sea to the Middle East and Africa.

30%

40%

#### Ukraine and Russia export 30% of the world’s wheat.

Other %

#### The same applies to many other commodities. So what do we do? Prepare now but also look ahead.

8

## ***Don’t complain*** about others since God will judge grumbling (9).

9

## ***Be patient*** like OT saints who suffered for speaking for God (10-11).

### Prophets suffered despite rarely seeing their predictions fulfilled (10).

Jeremiah

#### Jeremiah represents many of the other prophets in terms of patience in suffering.

##### Preached for 40+ years

##### Noted people's sins to show God's justice

##### Preached accepting God's discipline by submitting to Babylon's 70-year captivity

##### Commanded to remain unmarried (16:2)

##### Persecuted by his family, hometown people and the religious world

##### Thrown into prison (37:5)

##### Carried off by force to Egypt where he continued to preach against sin (43:1-7)

##### He died in Egypt without seeing many prophecies of the new covenant fulfilled.

How Live?

#### If Jeremiah could rely on God, can’t we?

Job

• Where?

Job 42

Contrasts

Hen

12

Yes or No

### God also vindicated Job for his endurance (11).

11

#### He struggled with losses for a long time and ironically his name means “Where is (my) Father?”

#### But God rewarded him in the end.

##### God replaced his children.

##### God doubled his possessions.

##### God even gave him 140 more years!

### James is telling us here to have patience even with our blessings!

## ***Don’t take oaths*** but simply let your word be true (12).

### Back to our words again—are we learning to control our tongues?

### How does the exhortation not to grumble against others (5:9) and not to take oaths (5:12) fit into this context of patience (5:7-8, 10-11)?

#### James must be noting that people can grumble and make rash vows due to impatience.

#### What they have in common is the perils of the tongue—speaking too quickly without knowing all the facts—and this is a sign of impatience.

Subject

(So, what is God’s path to patience? How can we be patient during suffering?)

# Conclusion

### Don’t exploit others but work towards Christ’s return (Main Idea). Treat people generously and patiently serve Jesus until he rewards you at the Rapture.

MI

### Main Points

MPI

#### Don’t exploit others (1-6).

MPII

#### Work towards Christ’s return (7-12).

### Exhortation

#### Are you satisfied with your level of patience? I hope not! Every one of us can grow in this area.

Satisfied?

#### What was the area where you are most impatient that you identified at the start of this message?

Where show up?

##### Wait on God in that area where you are most impatient.

##### Confess your impatience

##### Entrust this area to the Lord.

Bring Home

#### To Bring Home…

• Rich or Poor?

##### Are you among the rich or the poor of the world? How do you know this?

• What luxuries?

##### What luxuries or conveniences could you share with others? Think of things you tend to waste or not put to greater use.

• What do?

##### What should you do with the hard-hitting words of James?

How Patient?

#### How Can We Be More Patient?

• Bless

##### Bless others—don’t exploit (5:1-6)

• Look

##### Look to the Lord's return (5:7)

• Complain

##### Quit complaining to others (5:9)

• Rash

##### Stop making rash promises (5:12)

• Example

##### Imitate examples of perseverance (5:7, 10, 11)

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### He told his readers to be humble in chapter 4 in Dan’s message on “The Subtle Art of Self Rule”:

#### Don’t fight other believers (4:1-10).

#### Don’t judge others (4:11-12).

#### Don’t trust in yourselves (4:13-17).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### The warnings against the rich oppressors (5:1-6) and the encouragement to endure suffering (5:7-12) seem at first to be two separate sermons.

### But the common theme of them both is to be patient.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Often our greatest weakness as an unbeliever stays with us into the process of discipleship where it takes some time to change.

### In the case of the first-century Jews, many became wealthy—and some due to taking advantage of their workers.

# Questions

### Is this rebuke to rich non-Christians or Christians (1-6)?

#### The whole letter addresses believers and nothing in these verses shows that he has switched to speaking against unbelievers (who wouldn’t be reading the letter anyway).

#### The Roman world had many rich Jews scattered throughout its many wealthy cities. In fact, Jews were the only religion exempted from being required to bow to the emperor in emperor worship as they contributed much to the economy.

#### Certainly, some of these Jews trusted in Christ and are those referred to here.

### Is James putting ***all*** rich people into the same category by saying that they ***all*** became rich through exploitation (1, 4, 6)?

#### No, because this would be unfair to attribute the same motive to all the wealthy.

#### It would also be contrary to other verses of Scripture where other godly people were rich, such as Abraham and even Job.

#### Job is specifically held in high honor only five verses later (5:11).

### How does the exhortation not to grumble against others (5:9) and not to take oaths (5:12) fit into this context of patience (5:7-8, 10-11)?

#### James must be noting that people can grumble and make rash vows due to impatience.

#### What they have in common is the perils of the tongue—speaking too quickly without knowing all the facts—and this is a sign of impatience.

# Tentative Main Ideas

# The way to be patient is to live expectantly instead of exploiting others.

# Illustrations That Apply

### Non-Christian Oppressors

#### We often buy clothes that are made by slave labour in China and elsewhere.

#### Our Myanmar friend Raymond in Singapore worked in the waist-deep mud beneath the roads building the subway line. He earned about US$20 daily, and had to work seven days a week. After his expenses, at seven months into his one-year contract he still owed the company US$1500 that brought him from Myanmar to Singapore. At that rate, he was on track not to earn anything in the year. His earned about $500 a month, but his expenses were more than that.

### Christian Oppressors

#### Maids working for Christians are also oppressed—eating the leftover food from the children’s plates, sleeping on the floor, and not getting a day off.

#### Some refreshing exceptions include Gladys from the Philippines who was sent to Bible college and ended up as a missionary mother of five children serving for decades in Thailand.

### Patience

#### What is patience?

#### Interesting how we call those that the doctor is treating “patients.” Maybe that is because the doctor is practicing medicine!

# Scripture Texts

***NLT (Second Edition):***

*Warning to the Rich—Note the many references to judgment.*

James 5:1    Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible **troubles ahead** of you. 2 Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the **day of judgment**. 4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

James 5:5    You have spent your **years on earth** in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the **day of slaughter**. 6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

*Patience and Endurance—Note the many references to the Lord’s return.*

James 5:7    Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the **Lord’s return**. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. 8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for **the coming of the Lord is near.**

James 5:9    Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—**the Judge is standing at the door**!

James 5:10    For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him **at the end**, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

James 5:12    But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

**God’s Path to Patience**

***James 5:1-12***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to be patient is to live expectantly of Christ’s return instead of exploiting others.

# I. The way to be patient is not to exploit others in light of Christ’s return (1-6).

## God warns rich oppressors that the riches they trusted in would be ruined when Jesus returns (1-3).

## The reason God will judge the wealthy is their exploitation of powerless workers (4-6).

# II. The way to be patient is to expect God to work until Christ’s return (7-12).

## *Work* in light of your reward at Christ’s return like a farmer awaits rains and harvest (7-8).

## *Don’t complain* about others since God will judge grumbling (9).

## *Be patient* like OT saints who suffered for speaking for God (10-11).

### Prophets suffered despite rarely seeing their predictions fulfilled (10).

### God also vindicated Job for his endurance (11).

## *Don’t take oaths* but simply let your word be true (12).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will patiently wait on God in an area where they presently struggle.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: What are you waiting for? Marriage? The salvation of a loved one? Return of a prodigal? Financial stability? Are you waiting *patiently* for God to work? Patience is not about how long one can wait, but how well one behaves while waiting.

### Need: How many of you want to be more patient? Do you pray for patience? You shouldn’t! God will give you opportunities to see this quality developed in you!

### Subject: What is God’s path to patience? In other words, *how can you be patient during suffering?*

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### Text: James 5:1-12 provides many commands that seem to hit on many miscellaneous subjects, but I think the common idea of them all is the way of patience.

(So what is God’s path to patience? How can you be patient during suffering? First…)

# I. Don’t exploit others (1-6).

## God warns rich oppressors that the riches they trusted would be ruined when Jesus returns (1-3).

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(So do not use your position to take advantage of others. That is being patient! So how else can we be patient during suffering in God’s path to patience? We have seen what NOT to do—don’t exploit people. Now let’s see what TO do…)

# II. Work towards Christ’s return (7-12).

## ***Work*** in light of your reward at Christ’s return like a farmer awaits rains and harvest (7-8).

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### Prophets suffered despite rarely seeing their predictions fulfilled (10).

### God also vindicated Job for his endurance (11).

## ***Don’t take oaths*** but simply let your word be true (12).

(What is God’s path to patience? How can we be patient during suffering?)

# Conclusion

### Don’t exploit others but work towards Christ’s return (Main Idea).

### Main Points

### Exhortation

#### What was the area where you are most impatient that you identified at the start of this message?

#### Wait on God in that area where you are most impatient.

#### How?

##### Confess your impatience.

##### Entrust this area to the Lord.

### Prayer

**Rick Griffith**

21 May 2022

Message 12 of 13

**God’s Path to Patience**

***James 5:1-12***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

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