

James 5 Summarized

Sentences

5:1, come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!*

5:2, your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

5:3, 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.

5:4, 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.

5:5, you have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

5:6, you have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

5:7-8, 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. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

5:9, do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

5:10-11, my brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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.

5:12, 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.

5:13, is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

5:14, 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.

5:15, 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.

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.

5:17-18, 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.

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.

Paragraphs

5:1-6, [The arrogant wealthy who know better are in for a rude awakening] the Lord of Armies has seen and heard how the wealthy have defrauded, condemned and murdered the just to amass and hoard their wealth in order to live in luxury. Therefore, He will visit terrible miseries upon them: their wealth will curse and rot them from the inside out and He will slaughter them as a fatted calf.

5:7-11, therefore, those suffering [due to the wealthy's mistreatment or other reasons] must suffer patiently, as a patient farmer waits for his crop, knowing that the Lord of justice will return. Instead of complaining about each other and experiencing the Lord's condemnation, they must endure like the prophets and Job who experienced the Lord's blessing: the Lord used their suffering to bless them.

5:12-20, [here's more persevering behavior they should emulate] they must not be hypocrites, so they shouldn't swear to keep their word, they should just keep it. If anyone is suffering, they should pray. If anyone is happy, they should sing. If anyone is sick, they should call for the elders to pray and anoint them with oil in the Lord's name. And if the elders pray with faith, the Lord will heal the sick. If their illness is due to sin, the Lord will forgive them. If they're harboring sin, they should confess it to each other and pray for each other so they'll be healed. Because the strong, effective prayer of a righteous man avails much. For example, Elijah, who was just like us, prayed strongly that it wouldn't rain and it didn't for 3 ½ years. Then he prayed again and it rained and the earth gave its fruit. Finally, if any of them strays from God's truth and someone turns them back, the one who brought them back will save the sinner's life and the Lord's forgiveness will conceal their many sins.

Whole Chapter

[The arrogant wealthy will get their due and the suffering must endure] the Lord's been watching how the wealthy have brutally mistreated the just to amass their wealth in order to live in luxury. So He will turn their wealth against them and slaughter them as a fatted calf. Therefore, the suffering must persevere patiently because the Lord of justice will return. They must not complain about each other and experience the Lord's condemnation. Instead, they must endure like the prophets and Job. If they do, the Lord will use their suffering to bless them. They mustn't swear, but simply keep their word. If anyone is suffering, they should pray. If anyone is happy, they should sing. If anyone is sick, they should call for the elders to pray and anoint them and if they pray with faith, the Lord will heal the sick. If the illness is due to sin, the Lord will forgive. Thus, if they're struggling with sin, they should confess to each other and pray for each other so they'll be healed. Intense prayer avails much, e.g., Elijah, who's just like you and me, prayed intensely that it wouldn't rain and it didn't for 3 ½ years. He prayed again and it rained. Finally, if one of them strays from God's truth and another brings them back, their actions will save the sinner's life and conceal their many sins.