

"True Faith and Patience"**Part 5****James 5:7-11**

Introduction: Today as we come back to our study in the book of James we come again to James 5:7-11 and in this section James is dealing with the subject of "PATIENCE". He is writing to Jewish believers but to be more specific, in this section he is writing to Jewish believers who are very poor and at the time of this writing they are suffering from oppression. They are "day workers" who are working for the wealthy and the wealthy is holding back their wages. According to the Law the "day worker" was to be paid in full at the end of the day. But that was not happening with these people.

Now James knew that God had appointed this path for these people to walk and so James has written this section in order to give them the encouragement which they needed. So far we have looked at 3 points of encouragement in this text.

1. **The return of Jesus Christ.**
2. **The patient farmer.**
3. **The patience of the Old Testament prophets.**

These points were all full of encouragement but James had yet another point which they would have been very aware of and it is the point we shall see in our message today.

4. The Patience of Job.**James 5:11**

¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James does not say much about Job in this verse and the reason is because these Jewish believers were very familiar with the life of Job and just this mention of his name would have stirred their minds to remember the life of Job. But that is not the case for many of us so we need to step into the book of Job to walk through what he experienced and then gather some lessons of encouragement for our lives.

I. Job's Attitude**Notice Job 1:1-3**

Job was a righteous man who lived to honor God. He had 7 sons and 3 daughters and was very wealthy.

Notice Job 1:6-12

There are several points to be seen from this.

1. Satan speaks of a hedge of protection around Job.

This hedge was impossible for Satan to penetrate.

Application:

This same hedge is around every one of God's people. But what is the hedge of protection? Let me show you what it was that was around Job and is around each of us. I will for a moment step you into the life of Elisha. He is traveling with a young man who is one of his disciples. Elisha is in Dothan and he is being pursued by the king of Syria. When they awake in the morning the young man with Elisha is terrified by what he sees.

2 Kings 6:15-17

¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

God opened the eyes of the young man and allowed him to see in the spiritual realm and when he did he was able to see that he and Elisha were surrounded by a heavenly host of angels that were there to protect them.

Did you realize we have the very same protection in our lives? This is the hedge of protection which God has around us and it was around Job.

2. Satan could not get to Job without permission from God.

Satan wanted to get to Job but he had to get permission from God.

Application:

The same is also true of our lives. Satan cannot get to us unless God permits him to enter through the hedge of protection. Let me show you something that Peter wrote.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

We are KEPT by the power of God. That means that God must give permission before Satan can step into our lives to afflict us in any way.

Luke 22:31

³¹ *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

Satan had to go through Jesus to get to Peter.

Let's get back to Job.

Notice Job 1:13-19

In one day Job lost all of his children and all of his possessions. Now let me show you the response of Job.

Notice Job 1:20-22

In the midst of all of his loss Job worshipped God and he praised his name.

This takes my mind back to James and something else which he said in chapter 5.

James 5:8-9

⁸ *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

⁹ **Grudge not one against another**, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

James told his readers not to murmur because James knew that grumbling, complaining, and murmuring were a manifestation of unbelief.

Job trusted God in the midst of the news which had come to him concerning his family. Right after this in chapter 2 Satan came to him again and covered him with boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet.

Job 13:15a

¹⁵ *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:*

So let me raise a question, "How was Job able to trust God and to keep from complaining in the midst of the emotional and the physical pain?"

II. Job's Focus

The answer is, "HE TRUSTED GOD AND HE LOOKED BEYOND THE SITUATION TO A DAY WHEN IT WOULD BE OVER." I will show you this in a moment but let me show you something else James had said.

James 1:2-3

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

The word "COUNT" here means to "CONSIDER". James is saying that when we face the trials of life we are to stop and CONSIDER them, which means we are to think through the trials to the end result. That is why he goes on to remind his readers that the trying of their faith works patience in their lives. When he says, "Knowing this" he is speaking from experience. James knew that the trials and the furnaces of life were a TOOL used by God to shape our lives spiritually speaking.

Now back to Job. He knew the very same thing.

Job 23:10

¹⁰ *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

Job was able to look ahead to the end result and he gripped tightly to the hope which he had in God. Let me show you something else Job said.

Job 19:25-26

²⁵ *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:*

²⁶ *And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

²⁷ *Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

So from these verses we can see that Job was focused beyond the trial to a day when he would see the benefits of what he was given to endure.

Let me show you 2 others who had the same practice in their lives.

1. Paul

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

2. Jesus

Hebrews 12:2

² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The Jews whom James was writing to were familiar with the story of Job so they knew that Job's focus was a big part of his patience.

Application:

So our attitude in the trials should be one of worship and our focus should be beyond the trial to the end result. But there is one more thing.

III. God's Mercy

James 5:11

¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James reminds his readers that as they have heard of the story of Job they had seen with their mind's eye the pity and the tender mercy of the Lord.

The word "pity" refers to the COMPASSION of God and the word "mercy" refers to the act of the compassion. Now let me explain what this means.

God's love for Job was so great and He was so moved with compassion that God made sure Job was never tried beyond what he was able to bear. His trial was regulated by God.

Job 42:10-13

¹⁰ And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹ Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

¹² So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters.

Conclusion:

Let me leave you with a couple of verses.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Psalm 30:5b

...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.