Learning To Wait When I Want It Now August 27, 2023

*James 5:7-12 Series: Show Me It’s Real*

We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world. – Helen Keller

Intro: Life is a marshmallow test

1. Like a farmer, be patient with your circumstances
2. This isn’t a time for patience, is it?

v. 6 *You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

v. 7 *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.*

1. Farmers eye the harvest and wait for the rains

v. 7 *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.*

v. 8 *You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

Luke 22:32 *I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*

1. Grumbling is not okay for people who trust the Judge

v. 9 *Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*

Philippians 2:14 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing …*

* Do you agree or disagree with Helen Keller’s quote? Why/why not?
* Do the circumstances of v. 6 call for patience in your view? What is James saying here?
* How do you “establish your hearts” (v. 8)?
* What’s the connection between patience and grumbling?

1. Like the prophets, be patient with people
2. God has given us examples

v. 10 *As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

Isaiah 6:11 *Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste …”*

Hebrews 11:36-37 *Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.*

1. Maybe it’s your turn

v. 11 *we consider those blessed who remained steadfast*

Matthew 5:11-12 *Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

1. Keep serving despite the difficulties

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

* Why did God ask the prophets to do such hard things?
* Why do we consider other people blessed who persevere greatly but don’t consider ourselves blessed when we have to persevere?
* What does it mean in 1 Corinthians 15:58 that our labour is not in vain when some of our ministry plans fail?

1. Like Job, be patient with God
2. Job’s patience ended with God’s mercy

v. 11 *You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

Job 1:21 *And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

Job 2:9-10 *Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”*

Psalm 40:1 *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

1. Don’t cut corners because it’s tough

v. 12 *But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

* What does James want us to learn from Job’s life? How was God compassionate and merciful to Job? Will He do that for you?
* What helps you to wait patiently for the Lord?
* Where do you most need prayer for patience: with your circumstances, other people, or God?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study James 5:13-20

Notes