



PV Household Worship

June 11-16, 2018

❖ Daily Memory Verse: James 5:10

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

❖ Song: All Praise To Him <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZgYF89fzSQ>

Monday, June 11, "Don't grumble, instead, pursue peace."

Read James 5:9-11

James 5:9 says, "*Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*" James is obviously concerned about the way we use our mouths as disciples of Jesus. He continues to warn those who profess to belong to Jesus about how we use our tongues. Here in verse nine he addresses the sin of grumbling or murmuring against other believers. Instead of grumbling against someone...pursue peace with them! That brings to mind the words of an old youth group song that we used to sing: "*I have the peace that passes understanding down in my heart—down in my heart to stay!*" The lyrics testify to the blessing of the peace that Jesus so generously gives. Peace of God is truly a gift we enjoy in our hearts as we fellowship in His presence. But He never intended for us to keep all of that peace to ourselves. Peace is a gift to be shared with those around us. As Christians, it should mark our relationships and characterize the behavior of our church, not grumbling. Jesus said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers*" (Matt. 5:9), which indicates that we are to be intentional about living out His peace our relationships. Since we are prone to be troublemakers instead of peacemakers, this is important advice. So important that James warns that God, the righteous judge is standing at the door. Peace is the mark of a believer, grumbling is the mark of an unbeliever. Because God is a peacemaker, when we make peace we are "*called sons of God*".

- Of all the sins that James could've named, why do you think he states that grumbling is a sin that will be judged?
- How does it change your behavior to know that God, the righteous Judge is standing at the door?
- Memory Verse James 5:10
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, please help me to guard my tongue and use my words to pursue peace.

Tuesday, June 12, "God sustained His prophets and He will sustain you."

Read James 5:9-11

James 5:10 says, "*As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*" There are many hard situations that we find in life that are endurable because we know what their end will be. Take, for instance, a pregnant woman. She can endure the pains and changes associated with nine months of pregnancy because she knows the joy that will come when the baby arrives. James reminds us that we can be obedient to God and endure suffering because at the Father's predetermined time, Jesus will return as judge and make every wrong right. The prophets are good examples of patience because, in the midst of trials that were brought on by those who hated God, they persevered because they believed the certain promises of God. At one point in his life, Jeremiah was imprisoned. Isaiah and some of the other prophets were martyred. Yet they "*kept on*" preaching repentance to hardened sinners, calling God's people to embrace justice and mercy even as many of the

people stubbornly refused. The prophets are our example in suffering and patience. If they could press on without actually seeing God's promises fulfilled in their lifetime, how much more can we, having seen God's full revelation in His Son, Jesus, do the same? God sustained His prophets and He also will sustain every child of His, so carry on, remain faithful, and look to Him!

- Think about the prophets and other Saints mentioned in scripture. Can you think of any other examples of perseverance and trust in God? How about Saints you know of today?
- What is the hardest thing you have ever had to go through? How did God help you and what kept you going?
- Memory Verse James 5:10
- Prayer - God, thank you for giving us examples of those who suffered with patience and hope. Help me to look to them as examples of Your great faithfulness.

Wednesday, June 13, "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

Read James 5:9-11

James 5:11 says, "*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*" Wow, what amazing words, "*blessed are those who remain steadfast.*" If you visit a hospital waiting room you'll find all kinds of hurting people and hear all kinds of amazing stories. I recently heard about a daughter who was waiting to hear from her mother regarding test results for cancer. When the mother came out into the waiting room to meet her adult daughter she shared the news that the cancer was back. The daughter wanted to be strong when her Mom gave the report, but instead she burst into tears. This was her Mother's third bout with cancer. Though her mom was the one with bad news, she had to comfort the daughter. The mother looked into her daughters eyes and said, "*I know God is always good to me. He's always faithful and everything He allows into my life is ultimately for His glory.*" Even as she faced a difficult surgery, followed up by radiation treatments, the mother was assured of God's presence and faithfulness. Think about Job who lost his children, his wealth, and his health. But after hearing the news, Job 1:20 tells us "*he fell to the ground in worship.*" When advised to curse God, he said, "*Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?*" What a radical response. God is always present, always good and He is compassionate and merciful. Remain steadfast and consider yourself blessed.

- What helps you remain steadfast in times of suffering and trouble? Do you consider yourself blessed during those times?
- How have you seen the compassion and mercy of the Lord when you went through a difficult time?
- Memory Verse James 5:10
- Prayer - Lord, thank You for Your compassion and mercy when I am going through suffering and hard times.

Thursday, June 14, "Need compassion? Need comfort? Go to God."

Read James 5:9-11

James 5:11 says, "*You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*" I love how James relates our patience to the compassion and mercy of God. In other words, if God was not compassionate and merciful, you would not be patient. God's whisper of comfort helps quiet the noise of our trials and give us strength to keep going. Where do we go for help when struggles and pain threaten to shake our faith and steal our last ounce of joy? The Apostle Paul says it like this in 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we*

may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." Remember, Paul had more struggles and trouble than most of us could stand, yet he simply lifts up praise to God, who is not just our God but the God and Father of Jesus Himself. Think about the power and the love behind that! Then he gives us even better news: Our heavenly Father is the God of mercy and compassion. He cares for us with an everlasting, gracious love. And there's more—He is also the God of all comfort. Need compassion? Need comfort? Go to God. He has an endless supply and is ready to pour it out on you in abundance.

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4. How does it relate to James 5:11?
- What does 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 say about why God comforts us through trials?
- Memory Verse James 5:10
- Prayer - Father, thank You that you sustain and comfort me through hard times so that I can be Your instrument to comfort others in theirs.

Friday, June 15, "In every instance God is shown to be faithful."

Read James 5:9-11

In today's verses James brings up Job as our example in being patient and steadfast. C.S. Lewis authored a book titled "*The Screwtape Letters*." It seems Lewis is also thinking about Job when he writes a fictional account of a conversation between a senior demon and a junior demon as they discuss how to properly tempt a Christian. The two demons desired to destroy the believer's faith in God. "*Be not deceived,*" the senior demon says to the junior. "*Our cause is never more in jeopardy than when a human . . . looks round upon a universe in which every trace of God seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.*" Job's troubles were so great that he thought God might even kill him (Job 13:15). And didn't Jesus cry out from the cross, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" Yet in every instance God was shown to be faithful. Although Satan may try to tempt you to think you are forsaken, God is always near. He never forsakes His own. "*God has said, I will never leave you or forsake you*" (Heb. 13:5). We may boldly say, "*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.*" God is always near in spite of our suffering and hardships.

- Why doesn't God protect those who are serving Him from trials and persecution? What purposes does He accomplish through these hardships?
- Read Romans 8:28, 29. How does it relate to James 5:10, 11?
- Memory Verse James 5:10
- Prayer - Lord as I go through trials, fill me and help me to display how great, comforting, and trustworthy You are.

Saturday, June 16, Read James 5:12-18

Review memory verse.

Prayer: Father, make us ready to hear your Word. Reveal your truth to our hearts. Give us grace to listen and obey. Bind the enemy of our souls and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us joy as we meet with your people for doctrine, prayer, and worship.