

## THE PATIENCE OF JOB

James 5:7-11

May 20, 2007 Sunday p.m.

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. How patient are you?

In March of 2006, the Associated Press and Ipsos surveyed 1,003 adults concerning Americans' attitudes and behavior regarding impatience. Some of the findings included:

- While waiting in line at an office or store, it takes an average of 17 minutes for most people to lose their patience.
- On the phone, it takes about 9 minutes for most people to lose their patience.
- Women lost their patience after waiting in line for about 18 minutes. For men, it was an average of 15 minutes.
- People with lower income and less education are more patient than those with a college education and a high income.
- People who live in the suburbs are more patient than people who live in the city.

#### B. James addresses the subject of patience in 5:7-11.

### I. FIRST, JAMES ISSUES A CALL FOR PATIENCE-5:7a.

#### A. What is patience?

1. Literally the Greek word means, "to suffer long" or "longsuffering".
2. Its characteristics include....
  - a. The opposite of anger.
  - b. The refusal to retaliate.
  - c. The refusal to give up.
  - d. Its associated with hope and mercy.

#### B. What does the Bible say about it?

##### **Psalms 37:7-8**

- 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil.

##### **I Corinthians 13:4**

- 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

#### C. James' first example of patience is a farmer-7b-8. What do farmers illustrate about patience?

1. Farmers have no control over the weather (circumstances).
2. Farmers must wait for results.
3. Farmers continue to work while they wait.

#### D. In his Best-Selling book, The Purpose-Driven Life, Rick Warren writes, "When God wants to make a mushroom, he does it overnight, but when he wants to make a giant oak, he takes a hundred years. Great souls are grown through struggles and storms and seasons of suffering."

-- The Purpose-Driven Life, p 222

### II. SECOND, JAMES PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS ON PATIENCE.

#### A. Two women walked along the sidewalk after church. They were on their way home, thinking about meals planned for later that afternoon and casually discussing the morning service. "That was a great sermon on patience," remarked one woman. The other replied, "Yeah, but he went five minutes long."

#### B. James begins by warning his readers not to "grumble" or complain.-v.9.

1. Why would grumbling be associated with patience? Because when patience becomes hard and suffering becomes personal, we look for someone to blame. One example is today's high price of gasoline.

2. What is grumbling?
  - a. The Greek word literally means to “groan” or “murmur”.
  - b. It’s the opposite of patience.
  - c. It usually results in anger.
- C. How can we become more patient?
  1. First, remember how patient God (the Judge) is with us-9b.
  2. Second, remember that God often allows certain inconveniences in our lives to teach us a lesson-Romans 8:28.
  3. Third, remember that God judges our actions-9b.
  4. Fourth, remember that patience helps mature us-1:3-4.
 

**James 1:3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

**James 1:4** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### III. THIRD, JAMES GIVES US TWO MORE EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE.

- A. Shortly after starting her perfume business, Estee Lauder realized she had to persuade a cosmetics buyer to place her products in many stores throughout the country.
 

At 9 A.M., Lauder was in the offices of the American Merchandising Corporation, waiting to see Marie Weston, the cosmetics buyer. Since Lauder had no appointment, she was advised to come back another day.

"I don't mind waiting," said Lauder. "I'll wait until she has a few free moments."

Salespeople came and went. At lunch time, the receptionist said Weston's schedule was so full that getting to see her was impossible. Again, Lauder was told to come back later.

"I'll wait a little longer," she persisted.

Hours passed. At 5:15 P.M. Marie Weston came out of her office. She looked at Estee Lauder in disbelief, then admiration, and said, "Well, come in. Such patience must be rewarded."
- B. James gives us two more illustrations of patience at work.
  1. First, the Prophets-v.10.
  2. Second, Job-v.11.

### CONCLUSION

- A. An old prayer goes.... “Lord give me patience. Right now!”
- B. James told his readers and us that patience is not only needed in life, the home, and at work, its especially needed in our churches.
- C. God give us patience and help us to be patient in waiting for the answer to our prayer.