



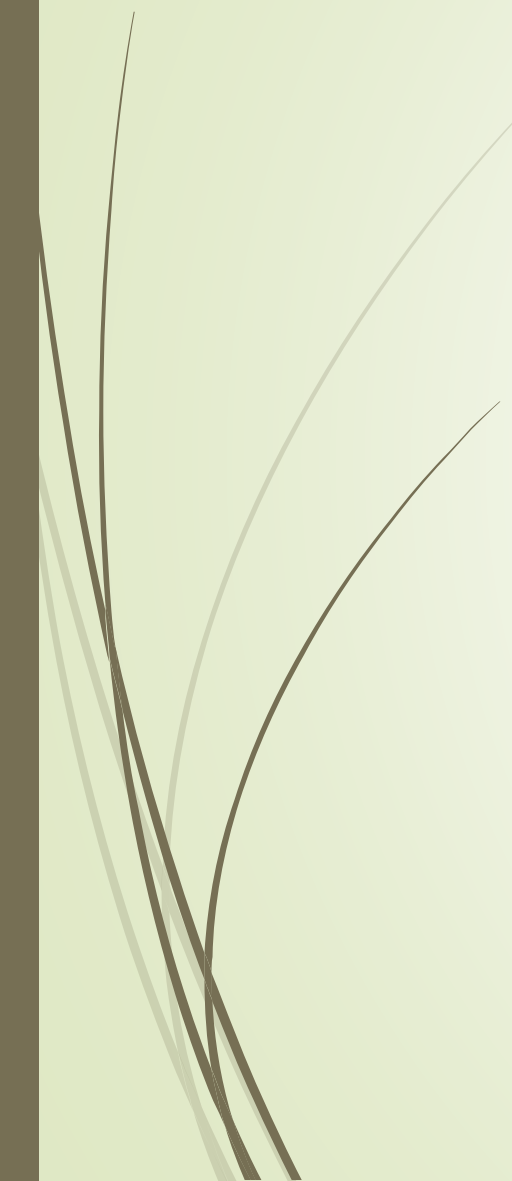
# James

The Epistle of Straw?



# Recap

## *James 5:1-6*

- ▶ Last week, James urged the rich to consider their sinfulness and repent of the ways that they had taken advantage of their neighbors or refused help to their neighbors.
  - ▶ We reflected on the ways that James might be speaking to us in America in our own position of wealth and security.
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# Patience

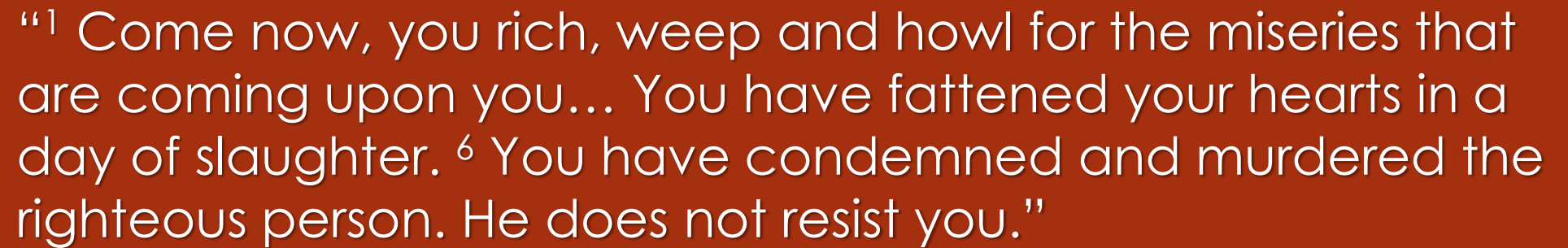
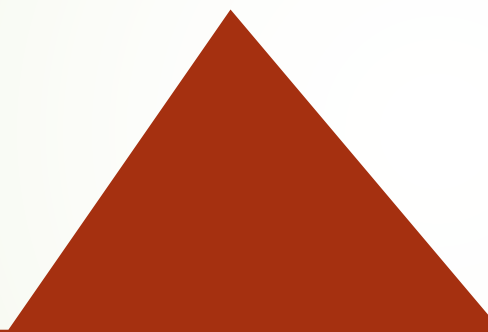
Our topic today



# What are we patient for?

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.



“<sup>1</sup> Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you... You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”



# What is an established heart?

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. 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. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.



# What does patience look like?

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. 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. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.



# An Example of Patience

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.



Job? Jeremiah? Jonah? Elijah?  
Joseph? Daniel? Elisha? Abel?





# Why is patience worthwhile?

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> 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.



Job? Jeremiah? Jonah? Elijah?  
Joseph? Daniel? Elisha? Abel?





## James 5:7-12

<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.



“<sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil (*Matthew 5*).”




## Note how this doesn't seem to connect.

*James 5:7-12*

<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.



“<sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil (*Matthew 5*).”



# Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of James

## Warnings against...

- Quarrels and fights
- Speaking evil against one another
- Boasting
- Riches
- Impatience
- **“But above all”**... do not swear

## ... And James’ Solution.

- Humility and Submission
- Do not Judge.
- “If the Lord wills...”
- Be fair, generous, & just.
- Be patient & establish your hearts.
- Let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no.



# Conflict between Rich & Poor Christians

My Interpretation



# Expanded Context, Expanded Meaning

## *Matthew 5*

<sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.



# Expanded Context, Expanded Meaning

## *Matthew 5*

<sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.





# Discussion Questions

For journaling, calling a friend, discussing with family, and prayer





# Why is “do not swear” so central?

Discussion Question



Do I struggle with patience  
in my relationship with God?

Discussion Question



# How do I establish my heart?

Discussion Question



# Prayer & Conclusion

Next Week...



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