**May 17th, 2020**

**Sermon Series: *The Letter of James***

**Passage: *James 5:7-20***

**Sermon Author: *Brad Julihn***

1. Read James 5:7-20 aloud.
2. Discuss your initial observations of the text.
3. Brad mentioned in his sermon that one of the myths of North American Christianity is the unspoken belief that “if you live for God, He is supposed to bless and protect you” (bless and protect your life, family, finances, etc.). Have you ever embraced this myth in your Christian walk? If so, do you still struggle with believing in this myth from time to time? Also, if you no longer embrace this myth, how did you find freedom from this false belief?
4. Brad said that “at times Christian legalist interpret trails as punishments from God and they quickly blame the victims of tragedies for the circumstances that they endure. Have you been tempted to interpret the current conditions we are facing (the COVID-19 pandemic) as punishment from God on our world? If yes, why? If no, why not?
5. Having declared the certainty of judgment on those who were mistreating the Christian brothers and sisters that James penned his letter to, James then calls his readers to patience with a purpose (**see James 5:7-12**). Do you sense God calling you to exhibit patience in a particular manner during this time? If so, please share the particular manner that God is calling you to demonstrate patience.
6. Brad described the Christian prayerful practice of lament as “what happens when people ask God why and don’t get an answer.” Have you ever lamented before the Lord? If yes, please share your experience with the group (i.e. if you are comfortable doing so).
7. James gives his readers a test of their Christian faith by calling them to examine the truthfulness of their heart and speech. How do you safeguard against the temptation to become untruthful before the Lord and others in your daily living?
8. “Our hope is not in healing, but in the resurrection.” How does knowledge of this truth give you confidence to face the day?
9. Brad stated that “God will bring justice and reward in the end, but in the meantime, we are called to patience, truthfulness, and prayer. As a group, build each other up by approaching God through petitionary prayers to fill each of you with purposeful patience, Christlike truthfulness, and a perpetual desire to commune intimately with God primarily through prayer.