

above all

do not swear

by...

"When James says *Do not swear*, it is not coarse or vulgar speech he prohibits but invoking God's name to guarantee the reliability of what a person says." (Moo, p. 232)

but let...

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 5:34** But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <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>ESV</sup> **Matthew 26:73** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup> Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed.

...so that you may not fall under condemnation

**How are you responding to being unjustly treated?**

**How does your response to being unjustly treated reveal your understanding of God?**

Sunday, July 6, 2025  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**PROVEN—The Letter of James**  
A Faith That's Practical, Prudent, and Patient  
No. 21 | Being Patient Until the Lord's Return  
**James 5:7-12**

**Review**

James writes, in the early years of the church, to help believers understand the dynamics of a proven faith—a faith that's practical, prudent, and patient in and throughout all of one's life, which includes:

**Responding to Trials (1:2-15)**

**Responding to the Word (1:16-27)**

Holding faith in Jesus Christ in a way that's consistent with true faith (2:1-26)

Showing true faith in Jesus Christ by demonstrating works (3:1-18; 4:1-12)

By taming the tongue (3:1-12)

By discerning who's wise (3:13-18)

By addressing the source of conflict (4:1-12)

By not boasting in pride—self-determined living (4:13-17)

By not boasting in earthly riches—self-indulgent living (5:1-6)

**What is James talking about in the passage before us (5:7-12)?**

How should we understand this passage?

- This passage (5:7-12) is about being patient, especially with reference to the "coming of the Lord," and particularly in light of being unjustly treated by others (cf. 5:1-6).
- This passage follows very closely the previous passage (5:1-6), but addresses "brothers" (believers) who may understandably lack patience in the face of unjust treatment, rather than rich unbelievers (5:1).
- This passage encourages believers in their response, specifically, to being unjustly treated ("therefore," v. 7), and, generally, to suffering in life before the coming of the Lord (v. 10).
- This passage can be outlined as follows:
  - (vv. 7-9) be patient by waiting and not grumbling
  - (vv. 10-12) be patient by considering and not swearing

## Being Patient Until the Lord's Return

No. 21

<sup>ESV</sup> **James 5:7** 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. <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.

### How should believers respond to unjust treatment by others?

#### By being patient until the Lord's return

What does this mean?

**"Be patient, therefore, brothers..."** (v. 7)

you

brothers

therefore

be patient

**"...until the coming of the Lord."** (v. 7)

- **It means waiting without grumbling.** (vv. 7-9)

The Positive Command: Be patient (verb, vv. 7 [2x], 8; noun, v. 10)

"The attitude that James calls on us to adopt here...includes resignation in the face of suffering along with confident expectation of a day when the fortunes of this life will be reversed. And, negatively, James is...also implicitly forbidding his readers from taking vengeance on their oppressors." (Moo, p. 222)

...the coming of the Lord is at hand (v. 8)

The Illustration: Behold the farmer

The farmer *waits*...

...the emphasis is on **waiting for** the fruit

You also...

...be patient (and) establish your hearts

"What is commanded...is firm adherence to the faith in the midst of temptations and trials. As they wait patiently for their Lord to return, believers need to fortify themselves for the struggle against sin and with difficult circumstances." (Moo, p. 223)

The Negative Command: Don't Grumble

"At first glance, this verse does not have much in common with its context, beyond sharing an emphasis on the imminence of judgment...But grumbling against those who are close to us is particularly likely to occur when we are under pressure or facing difficult circumstances." (Moo, p. 224)

...the Judge is standing at the door (v. 9)

- **It means enduring without swearing** (vv. 10-12)

The Positive Command: Receive an example

...suffering and patience...(and) steadfast(ness) (vv. 10-11)

"...we consider those blessed who remained steadfast."

<sup>ESV</sup> **James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

The Illustration: Behold Job

Hear...

See...

...the emphasis is on **putting up with** the suffering

The Negative Command: Don't Swear

What does this verse mean and where does it belong?!