

## Christmas at Grace Chapel: Four Secrets to Unleashing the Power of Patience

James 5:7-11

Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor

### **SERMON SUMMARY:**

People suffer. It is part of life. Yet, we long to know that there is greater purpose behind our pain. Jesus showed us that God is for us, even when it feels like He is not. We must have trusting patience to wait on the Lord, knowing that He is working in our hearts through our circumstances.

Wait on the **Lord** and trust that He is faithful to bring purpose through your pain. – v. 7

- What type of pain have YOU experienced in being patient? What does it mean to be patient? Is this a virtue that is easy or difficult for you? What situations or people cause you to think or act without patience? What are the results when you are not patient?
- Why doesn't God give us patience immediately? Why must we be patient to gain patience? How might that help you in dealing with the pain you are experiencing?
- What is the parallel between the farmer waiting for the harvest and us waiting for the return of the Lord? (See also Galatians 6:9)

Ready your **heart** and live with anticipation for Jesus coming again. – v. 8

- What does it mean to “establish your heart?”
- Why is it important to establish our hearts in light of the Lord's coming? Some 2000+/- years have passed since James wrote this book, how are we to understand the statement that the coming of the Lord “is at hand”?

Guard your **mouth** and leave all judgement up to God. – v. 9

- Somebody recently asked me, “Does grumbling and complaining break any of the 10 commandments?” (Exodus 20) How would you respond to that question? How would James 9 fit into your answer?
- Pastor Josh referred us to Numbers 13-14. Read those 2 chapters. What lessons can be gleaned from there regarding grumbling and complaining?
- Why would being patient with people and a warning against grumbling against others be included in the same passage? How are you doing that in your own life?

Remain steadfast in **faith** and rejoice in God's compassion and mercy. – vs. 10-11

- What is steadfastness? What light does Job's story shed on this? In what ways do you show steadfastness in your own life?
- How does the Lord's compassion and mercy motivate you toward remaining steadfast in your character, especially in light of Jesus' return?

**Apply:**

- Memorize Romans 12:12 and Colossians 1:11
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 = no joy, 10 = JOYFUL) where are you on the scale? Ask God to reveal to you how you can increase in that number.