

### Sermon Devotionals James 5:7-11

1. Re-read the first 6 verses in this chapter. Note who these verses are directed to. What are these people doing and to whom? (Answer in v.)
2. Beginning in v.7 to whom is James now speaking? The word *therefore* links these two sections. Draw an arrow linking *therefore* to all the previous statements about the rich and what they are doing. V.7 could begin, "Based on the truths I've just told you about the wicked rich and what they are doing to you, here's the way living faith responds to the circumstances and people causing your mistreatment."
3. Read v.7-11. Mark all references to *you/brethren/we* the same. Highlight or list all the exhortations listed. Mark the words *patient, endure*; mark all references to the coming of the Lord/Judge. How is it possible that James would tell these suffering believers to behave in such a manner? What is your reaction when mistreated or abused, especially if it's because of your faith in Christ? *Patient=makrothymia* large-suffering or longsuffering; we would say having a long fuse, as opposed to a short one. *Endure=hupomeno* remaining under. From Strongs:" in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings".
4. There are three references to the Lord's coming. How does remembering that fact help a believer to endure patiently? The word 'coming' has the sense of arrival. Look up 2Tim.4:5-8, 1John3:3, 2Peter3:10-12, Gal.6:8-9. Are you awaiting the arrival of the Lord with anticipation, knowing that He is looking for that living faith that is shown by enduring trials with patience?
5. Verse 10 says that we are to look to the prophets who suffered speaking the Word of God; they are to be our examples. Spend time examining the life and work of Daniel, or Jeremiah, or Job, or Ezekiel. Or for the fast version, read Hebrews 11 and note the examples of faith recorded there. Reading biographies of early missionaries like Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, etc. is an excellent way to be inspired and encouraged.