


JAMES 5

Patient for the Parousia

James 5:7-9



 ***But this is America! I want it now!***

Let's Begin This Morning

With Psalm 37:1-11

James 5:7-9

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. **8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Therefore . . .

James 5:7a

“Therefore be patient, brethren,
until the coming of the Lord.”

Note the radical shift in tone from
last week’s “you rich” to this week’s
“brethren.”



Be Patient?

“be patient”

makrothymeō

In Hebrews 6:15, Abraham “patiently waited” and “obtained the promise.”

Patience is at the heart of *agape* love in 1 Corinthians 13:4.

From a human perspective, it signifies an absolute dependence upon God.

“be patient”

- Often translated “longsuffering”
- Perseverance + Patience = *makrothymeō*
- The Lord is our example in 2 Peter 3:9 –
“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

In Other Words:

“Be Like God.”

Endure human evil and the trials that come for a season.

**God has been doing it since
Genesis 3...**

And Most Importantly

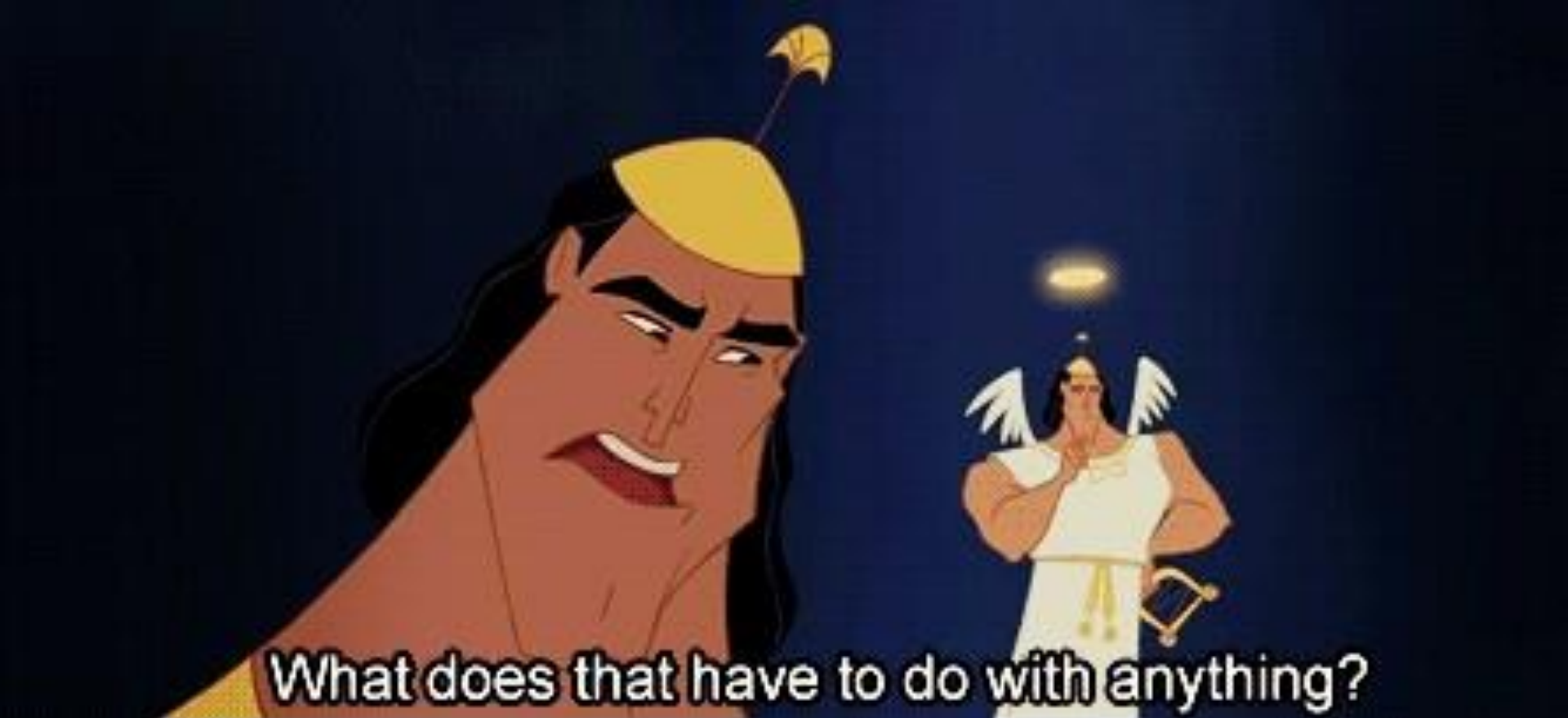
**The Lord is
Coming Back!**

(More on this in a moment)



James 5:7b

“The
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Let's Be Honest...

Most of Us Have a Hard Time Relating to This!

**Buy Fresh,
Buy Local**
Taste the difference...

Delicatessen



The Concept

By reason of the geology, geography, and topography of the land, the people of Israel were constantly dependent upon the “early and late rains” in order to survive agriculturally.

Deuteronomy 11:10-12

10 For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. **11** But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, **12** a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.

The Agricultural Cycle in Israel

- Winter Rainy Season
- Oct/Nov – Mar/Apr
 - Begins with the “early rains”
 - Necessary to break up soil, get plow in the earth
 - Concludes with the “late rains”
 - Necessary to grow grain crops (hay, barley, wheat)
 - Harvested in the spring
 - After the late rains, but must be in before the heat of the summer

The Agricultural Cycle in Israel

- Summer Dry Season
- Apr/May – Sep/Oct
 - No Rain at all
 - Heavy dew each night
 - Sufficient to grow vineyard and orchard crops
 - Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives
 - These are harvested in the Fall after the early rains

The Significance

God intended that abiding dependence upon regular and recurring rainfall to be to the people of Israel a very practical and compelling impetus to obedience.

Deuteronomy 11:13-17

13 “It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, **14** that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. **15** He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. **16** Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. **17** Or the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you.

James' Point

The harvest is coming at the *Parousia* of Jesus Christ!

The farmer waits patiently for the fruit of his labor.

It is in the waiting that the people of God display their trust and obedience.

Remember James 1:17-18

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

James 5:8

“You too be patient; strengthen your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord is near.”

- 1 Peter 5:10 is similar:

“After you have suffered for a little while, the
God of all grace, who called you to His
eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect,
confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

“strengthen your hearts”

Compare this to the “fattened” hearts of the rich in 5:6 prepared for “slaughter.”

The fattened heart is filled with self-centeredness and devoid of mercy.

The strengthened heart is patient and faith-filled in anticipation of the coming of the Lord.

**A
Strengthened
Heart Acts!**



Galatians 6:9

“Let us not lose heart
in doing good, for in
due time we will reap
if we do not grow
weary.”

The Parousia

When Christ comes, He will reveal the opposition of God against the rich who have been merciless and all the other entities that oppose God.



2nd Coming in the NT

1. *Parousia* (Matt. 24:27; 1 Thess. 2:19; 1 John 2:28)

- It is used of the invasion of a country by an army; and especially it is used of the visit of a king or a governor to a province of his empire.
- So, when this word is used of Jesus, it means that his second coming is the final invasion of earth by heaven and the coming of the King to receive the final submission and adoration of his subjects.

2nd Coming in the NT

2. *Epiphaneia* (Titus 2:13; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:9)

- It is used of the appearance of a god to the worshipper, and it is used of the accession of an emperor to the imperial power of Rome.
- So, when this word is used of Jesus, it means that his second coming is God appearing to his people, both to those who are waiting for him and to those who are taking no interest in him.

2nd Coming in the NT

3. *Apokalupsis* (1 Peter 1:7, 13; Rev. 1:1)

- In ordinary Greek it means an unveiling or a laying bare.
- So, when it is used of Jesus it means that his second coming is the laying bare of the power and glory of God come upon men and women.

What a Picture!

“The second coming of Jesus is the arrival of the King; it is God appearing to his people and mounting his eternal throne; it is God directing on the world the full blaze of his heavenly glory.”

• William Barclay

An Eschatological Lesson

- The wise farmer learns to wait patiently for the harvest.
- He doesn't waste time reading too much into the time of the rains or mystical signs.
- Life for the believer in the “last days” is marked by sowing righteousness and a mature faith.

The
Bible
Guarantees
It

Judgment Day

21 May 2011

...Cry mightily unto God Jonah 3:8



FamilyRadio.com

ooh!

Romans 13:11-12

11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. **12** The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

In the New Testament

Wisdom and Eschatology
become inseparably bound
together:

Faith in the coming of the
Lord expresses itself in
faithful obedience in the
present.

“the coming of the Lord is near”

- Consider that as we read this today we are nearly 2000 years removed from the original context.
- If the *Parousia* was “near” in the 1st century, how much nearer is it today?
- Question: Was James just way off on his eschatological timeline?

“the coming of the Lord is near”

Perfect Active Indicative

This expresses present time and a settled state.

- Which means:

1. We are to live in a continued state of expectancy of the Lord's coming.
2. Nothing can more “strengthen the heart” amidst present troubles than the realized expectation of His speedy coming.

It is Difficult to be Patient

**When the Result is
Unknown.**

**That is not the case in our
faith.**



The Harvest is Precious

**And the Labor is
Worth It!**

Turn to Psalm 126

James 5:9

9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

No
Room in
the
Church
for:

MR. GRUMBLE

by Roger Hargreaves



“Do not complain”

James knows us all too well...

The Greek here is *stenazō*

ESV: “grumble”; KJV: “grudge”

**Did you know there are many ways in
which to “grumble?”**

Romans 8:23

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves *groan* within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

Hebrews 13:17

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with *grief*: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Exodus 2:23-24

23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel *sighed* because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. **24** So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Numbers 14:2

All the sons of Israel
grumbled against Moses and
Aaron; and the whole
congregation said to them,
“Would that we had died in the
land of Egypt! Or would that we
had died in this wilderness!”

James' Warning

“Do not complain, brethren,
against one another”

This is absolutely essential to a
thriving and gospel-centered
church.

Why?

If we are to endure in suffering,
we must do so together.

James' flock are already dealing
with the oppression of the
wicked rich; the last thing they
need are infighting with one
another.

In View: Matthew 7:1

**“Do not judge so that you
will not be judged.”**

In other words:

“Stay in your lane.”



And Furthermore...

We complain in the presence of the divine Judge!

Turn to Psalm 24:7-10

Do You Really Trust Him?

The harvest is near.

His *Parousia* is near.

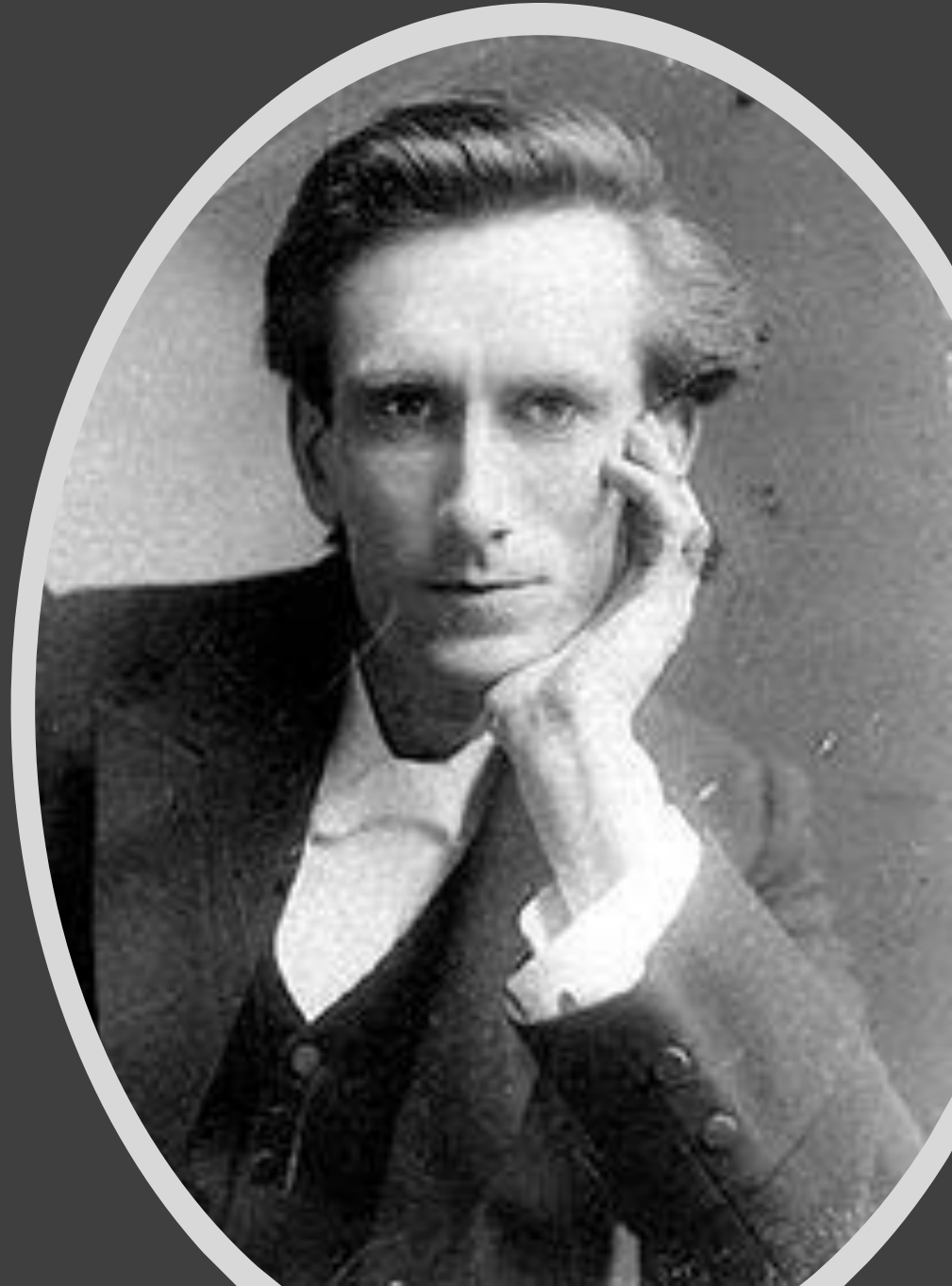
Grumbling in the midst of trials and causing conflict in the church is indicative of weak faith and spiritual immaturity.

The Judge is near.

Deliverance is near.

“Trust God,
and do the
next thing.”

- Oswald Chambers



2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

