



Sermon, Sunday July 18, 2021

“Be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return”

SCRIPTURE: James 5:7-12 ⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. ¹²Above all, my beloved, 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.

Introduction: What the Bible Says About Patience

People have many regrets before they die. People regret not having a more enjoyable life. Also, People regret not having helped their neighbor a little more. And People regret that they made big mistakes by being impatient. However, it is clear that no one wants a life of regret.

According to the Bible, the Word of God, a Christian is a person called to be a disciple of Jesus. Disciples of Jesus must practice inward and outward godliness before the Lord. And the fruits of godliness can be seen through the changes in our lives. However, life change through the Holy Spirit takes a lot of time. Therefore, the virtue of patience is very important for Christians. So the Bible has a lot of descriptions of patience.

2 Peter 1:6 says, “And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness.”

Romans 5:4 says, “Perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Luke 21:19 says, “By standing firm you will gain life.”

Also, James 1:4 says, “Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

In today's text, the apostle James is teaching about patience. In order to complete a life without regrets, we must have the strength to persevere. I hope today's words will be a challenge to all of us.

Body: The Apostle James Emphasizes Patience

In today's text, the apostle James speaks of three types of patience.

The first is the patience of the farmer.

I love Iowa's weather with four distinct seasons. The wildflowers blooming in spring are so beautiful. It is also happy to see corn and soybeans growing well in the summer. The views of the Des Moines River as I stroll along Madrid's High Trestle Trail in the fall are spectacular. And I like the pure white beauty of winter. Nature gives us this kind of beauty in its natural order. However, people's greed



has ruined the ecosystem. These human actions are against the laws of nature. As a result, natural disasters continue to occur all over the world.

But today's text, James 5:7, refers to a farmer who waits for rain in spring and fall. Such a farmer's life is a life that does not violate the laws of nature. It may or may not rain when the farmer wants it. But the farmer waits patiently for the rain to come, according to the laws of nature. The apostle James urges us to become Christians who live by order through the patience of a farmer. Living by the laws of nature doesn't mean we don't put effort into our lives. Living according to the laws of nature means making efforts to sow and nurture seeds like a farmer, but in areas that we cannot do, we must seek the Lord's will with humility. Disciples of Jesus need this kind of patience. What, then, is the other patience that the apostle James speaks of?

Second, the perseverance of the prophets who suffered for the name of the Lord.

Let's look at James 5:10. "As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."

In the Bible, there are many people who laid down their lives to preach the gospel to the world. The gospel of the Bible is to proclaim the love of Jesus to the world. The apostle James tells us to imitate those who sacrificed themselves to share the gospel of Jesus with the world.

The power that can change the world is the love of Jesus. And for the love of Jesus to bear fruit, our dedication and sacrifice are needed. But dedication and sacrifice cannot be done without patience.

We are currently going through a period of Pandemic that started in April 2020. The strength of a small church to endure this pandemic comes from the dedication of its members. Some serve their neighbors with delicious food, while others water the flowers around the church, cut and care for the lawn. Others support the church financially and give their talents to provide beautiful worship services. In addition, countless devotions that cannot be expressed in words help sustain the community and provide service to our neighbors. I pray that the wonderful blessings of the Lord will come abundantly to all who serve the church and their neighbors through devotion.

So, what is the last patience that the apostle James tells us about?

Third, Job's patience.

James 5:11 says, "Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

It would be great if we could achieve a mature faith right away, but maturity requires a process. So, the Lord sometimes gives us suffering for our maturity. The life of Job in the Bible shows us the image of a believer in suffering. Job did not lose faith in God even in the midst of suffering. And he learns more about the God who created the universe in the midst of suffering.

Then, what was the strength that enabled Job to overcome all kinds of hardships that suddenly came upon him by faith? It is trust in God. No matter the circumstances, Job never gave up his trust in God. And the reason that Job's trust in God could bear fruit through God's mercy was because of his perseverance. We need the same patience as Job, who overcame hardships by trusting in God.

The three kinds of perseverance that the apostle James tells us about today are linked to the end of the world, Judgment. That is why the apostle James says in **today's passage 5:7, "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord."** However, the result of our perseverance is to enjoy the abundant blessings of our merciful Lord.



Conclusion: May you be blessed through perseverance.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Today's text tells us that Christians must persevere until the coming of the Lord. Also, the apostle James speaks of three kinds of patience that Christians should imitate.

The three kinds of patience are the patience of a farmer who lives the laws of nature, the patience of the prophet for his neighbor, and the patience of Job, who trusted the Lord in the midst of suffering. And all of these kinds of this patience are linked to the end of the world.

Therefore, Christians must persevere until the Lord comes again. And in the process of patience, we should not blame or complain about our neighbors. Then, as a result of our perseverance, we will be fruitful and blessed through the merciful Lord. We pray that life will be abundant through patience, not impatience.

