



James Chapter 5b Rich Men, Taking Oaths, and Endurance!

As we ventured into the last part of James chapter 4 and the first part of James chapter 5 last week... we talked about some important things that James was trying to get across to the assembly. He spoke about things like judging rightly, and he reminded the congregation to be thankful for each day that they had and he reminded them that when they made their plans for the future... to always remember that the future depends upon our Father in Heaven. Nowhere in the scripture are we promised one more day here on this earth. And we went through some scriptures that reminded us of that fact in places like Luke 12:25 and Ecclesiastes 9:12, and certainly there are other scriptures like Proverbs 27:1 and Matthew 6:34 and on and on the list, goes.

We're told over and repeatedly not to be anxious for tomorrow... because the truth is that we have no idea what tomorrow will bring. James also spoke of things like the wicked who have become rich by withholding the wages of their workers and have laid up their treasures here on this earth instead of in the coming kingdom. Evil men who have been caught up in the love of money. And we spoke about the difference between the rich men that we read about in the scriptures like Abraham and David, and Jacob, and Job... who were all rich... and yet all loved our Father in Heaven... and the evil rich man that James was talking about. And we talked about the differences between the rich men who followed after, and loved our Father in Heaven... and those rich men who followed after their love for money, and their riches and their empires of dirt.

And so if you missed last week's teaching... we'd like to invite you to go back and give that a listen so that you can know and understand what we've already talked about up to this point in our study into the book of James... and once again you can find that complete study at our website at HolyImpactMinistries.com... just click on our "Bible Study Night" tab and then scroll down to our study on the book of James and you'll find all of our previous studies there along with the downloadable PDF files as well... and once again they're all free... none of it will cost you anything more than the time it takes to sit down and either view the video or read the manuscript.

So, let's move forward into the last few verses of James chapter five and let's see what else we can take from what James has to offer us here at the conclusion of his letter to the twelve tribes of the Dispersion. Let's read James 5:7-20:

Jas 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.

Jas 5:8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Jas 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

Jas 5:10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jas 5:11 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.

Jas 5:12 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.

Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

***Jas 5:18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Jas 5:19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

Jas 5:20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

In verses 7 and 8 James makes it clear to everyone that endurance is once again key to the gospel message that his brother Yahshuah came to preach and teach. The words "Patience" and "Endurance" are almost synonymous with each other. Often endurance is indeed... "Patience". Endurance can mean many things to many people in many different situations. Someone who is being persecuted needs endurance so that they won't lose faith. Someone who is simply tired of waiting also needs endurance so that he does not lose faith. Someone who is in a situation where they're forced to be around non-believers also needs endurance so that their faith is not stolen from them by those who mock and scoff at the faith that we hold fast to. So, patience with people and certain circumstances... and endurance go hand in hand, and time and time again we see this simple lesson taught throughout the scriptures. For instance let's once again turn to 2nd Peter 3:3

***2Pe 3:3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following*

their own sinful desires.

2Pe 3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

So here once again we've already been warned about those who will come mocking and scoffing, and those who will continue to say "Well ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation" or today they might say something like "okay... we've seen all these blood moons, and super moons, and asteroids and star alignments... and everything remains the same, and nothing has changed". But the truth is that much has changed... and this is why we've seen all of these signs in the sun moon and stars. Each one of them has been a call to repentance... a call for our Fathers people to turn and to come back... and opportunity for the wicked to look up and remember who it is that places the sun, moon, and stars in their stations and who it is that they obey.

Having patience, and the endurance that it takes to endure to the end is not always as easy we may think when we're standing in the face of adversity. Some people are living with their very own families that are scoffing and mocking them for keeping the commandments, precepts, and appointments of our Father in Heaven... but we must remember that even they... have been prophesied about. Here's what our Messiah had to say about those non-believing family members and those who cannot understand what the signs in the sun, moon, and stars mean. We can find his red letter words in Luke 12:51-57:

Luk 12:51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

Luk 12:52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.

Luk 12:53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Luk 12:54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens.

Luk 12:55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.

Luk 12:56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luk 12:57 "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

So clearly our Messiah has already warned us about those family members who will not believe... and he even goes one step farther and calls those who cannot understand what the signs in the sun, moon, and stars mean... "Hypocrites!" He's already told us in Matthew chapter 24 about all of the signs of his coming... all we have to do is read them... and know and understand that these are indeed the signs of the birth pains... the very beginning of what we know as "the end of days".

And so once again we see a call to endurance and to patience. We must remember that to our Father a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day, and we're told why it is that he does not come right away... the way the we often beckon him too. Let's turn to 2nd Peter 3:8-9

2Pe 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

So once again our Father in Heaven is not slow to fulfill his promise the way some people think that he is... he is simply being patient toward even the wicked... offering them the time that they need to come to repentance... but beware... because the day is coming when our Father's kindness and his patience will one day run out... and when it does... his kindness and his patience will be taken off the table... and in place of his kindness and his patience... the wicked will be made to drink of his wrath... which is not something that anyone wants to experience.

In James chapter 5 verse 8 we're told to "*be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand*" ... and this word "Establish" is actually the Greek word "stērizō"... and it means to make stable... to strengthen... and to make firm, or to confirm in one's mind. Again... we see all the attributes of the endurance that our Messiah told us we would need if we were going to be saved in Matthew 24:13, and again in Revelation 3:31, and we can also find the call to endure in 1st Corinthians 10:13, and 2nd Corinthians 1:6. And so with that... let's turn to 2nd Timothy 2:12:

2Ti 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

And so what James is planting in the hearing of his listeners is the call to have the patience and the endurance that we are all called to have... and not to give up when things get difficult or when we feel weary of waiting for him to come. Establishing our hearts and grounding them in the word, and building our houses on the Rock of truth who is our Messiah, and turning to the scriptures daily and walking in his ways and listening to his Ruach Hakodesh is how it's done my friends. We must have that personal relationship with him... and it's as easy as going to our prayer closets and bowing our heads and bending our knees and facing the holy promised land of Jerusalem and asking in the name of Yahshua Hamashiach for what we need daily...and to worship him... and thank him for what he's already given... this is indeed is the patience that James is speaking of.

In verse 9 James says "*Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*" Have you ever been around a grumbler? Have you ever felt like grumbling at someone just because you're in a mood... or maybe because you just woke up and your heads not on straight yet?

You know a good example of this “grumblings” is our Father’s appointments. As of this teaching we are about to keep our Father’s Day of Atonement... which we already know begins on Thursday evening the 28th this year in 2017... and it extends until sundown on Friday evening according to the God breathed scriptures that we hold in our hands, and we’ve already shown that in our last teaching this past 7th Day Sabbath... if you missed that... you can visit our “Day of Atonement “ page at HolyImpactMinistries.com... and yet... there are brothers and sisters who will grumble and will proclaim that the Day of Atonement is not on Friday the 29th... but rather that it’s on Saturday the 30th because that’s what someone else told them... so rather than going to the scriptures... and seeing and putting what it says to work... they would rather listen to what someone else tells them. Once again... the wisdom of men knows no bounds my friends... but never the less... what is the point in grumbling over these things? We do the best that we can do according to the God breathed scriptures that we hold in our hands... and if someone else thinks that his Day of Atonement is on Saturday... and they can point to the scriptures as to why they believe that... then we should not grumble.

I choose to do what the Scriptures tells me. I know that the new moon falls on the 20th of September this year in 2017. I know my scriptures say that this is the first day of the seventh month. I know that his Day of Atonement is 10 days from the new moon which is the first day of the month. I know that falls on the 29th of this month. And it’s just that simple for me, and I have no need for the intervention, or wisdom of men who want to try and change what is more than evident to not only me... but to many of my brothers and sisters who I dare say are just as spirit filled as I am.

And I say all of that to say this... what good is grumbling over what day his Day of Atonement is? If I have shown this to my brother and he has shown me what he sees and we disagree... are we both not trying to do the will of our Father in Heaven? And so what good would it do for me to grumble about which day he keeps? Would it not be best to simply allow him to do as he thinks is right in the eyes of our Father... just as he allows me to do as I believe is right in the eyes of our Father? Will our Messiah not judge us both... and set us straight upon his coming?

I would submit to you my friends... that even more than the day... what our Father is interested in is the heart. Grumbling never solves anything. As for me and my household we will serve our Father and his only begotten Son... and as for my brother I expect him to do the same... not because I told it to him... but because the very spirit of our Father has told him to do so. Is Saturday rather than Friday a Pagan holiday? Is Saturday rather than Friday the birthday of other gods, or is it used to worship other gods? Certainly not... and so if what I perceive to be my brothers miss-interpretation of the scriptures is what he chooses to live by... I will not grumble. In other words simply agreeing to disagree can at times be more healthy than grumbling. There are many ways to interpret the appointments of our Father... and because we have been removed from these appointments for literally thousands of years... it is possible that we may at some point misunderstand or miscalculate. But if we continue to study to show ourselves approved and if we continue to walk in his ways the best that we can... I believe that

our Father in Heaven will know what's in our hearts, and I believe that in such matters he will wink in the eye of ignorance... and therefore... I do not grumble... I simply pray for him and ask that he pray for me also.

We as Christians who are returning to his words often times grumble over foolish things. Like the pronunciation of his name. It is clear that no one had a tape-recorded to tape record Moses when he asked our Father what his name was. And therefore, for anyone to say that they know definitively how to pronounce our Father's name is nothing more than vanity and arrogance. Things like these should not drive us apart... we must be adult enough to know that there will always be questions that only our Father and his only begotten Son can answer... and they will answer these things in good time for us all. But as for now... let us not grumble over things that we must admit... we simply cannot be 100 percent sure of. Let us instead continue to pray, and study, and do... what he gives us to do.

Let's continue with James 5:10-11:

Jas 5:10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jas 5:11 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.

Again... we see... as we always do... James points right back to the prophets who spoke in the name of our Father, and he once again calls us being steadfast... which again means that he wants us to endure. We must remember that James always lived in obedience to the law just as Paul always lived in obedience to the law according to James in Acts chapter 21 verse 24. And so it should not seem strange to us that James invokes the prophets who spoke in the name of the Father when he tells us to again remain steadfast in verse 11. And once again James points right back to Job... who is also found in the "Old Testament" ... helping us to realize that what the prophets spoke in the name of our Father in Heaven should be obeyed just as Job obeyed them when he endured his testing.

And I want us to also see something very important that we hear from James in verse 12:

Jas 5:12 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 many times have you seen Presidents sworn in on Bibles during their inauguration? How many times have you seen people swear on Bibles in court? Have you ever thought about what the scripture says concerning these things? My friends we as Christians who are followers of the Messiah should know better. Let's see what our Messiah says in his own red letter words about swearing on things or taking an oath... we can find that in Matthew 5:33-36:

Mat 5:33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

Mat 5:34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

Mat 5:35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Mat 5:36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Mat 5:37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

I don't know about you my friends... but you won't find me raising my hand to take an oath or swearing upon anything... Let... alone my Fathers God breathed scriptures. Simply let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no". Think about it my friends... if a person were to take an oath in our Fathers name... and then fail it... he would then be breaking the 3rd commandment... "thou shalt not take the Lords name in vane"! Not to mention "thou shalt not lie". Once we take an oath... the Devil will no doubt make his move to do anything and everything he can to get us to break it, and it opens the door for him to trick us in any and every way that he may choose. So why give him that opportunity?

Let's turn our attention back to James 5:13-18:

Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

This my friends is where the prayer list comes in. If we're sick... and we don't even ask him to heal us... should we expect that he will heal us? So many times, in life I've seen brothers and sisters get sick and if you ask them if they've prayed to be healed... they simply laugh or smirk at you. And sometimes we get so caught up on what the doctors say, and our visit to the emergency room that we often times simply forget to pray... and we put our trust in men rather than in our Father in Heaven. Praying for healing should be the first thing that we do, not the last... as it often is. To many times, we will exhaust every other avenue before we simply have

nowhere else to turn... and it's only then when we've exhausted every other avenue of hope... that we finally fall to our knees out of exhaustion... and we finally take the time to ask him for what we need... and often times my friends... he's just waiting for us to turn to him and ask him.

I cannot tell you the importance of taking these things to the assembly... and humbling ourselves and asking for the prayers that we so desperately need. It's humbling to ask someone to pray for you, isn't it? Some of us won't even ask for prayers because we're too embarrassed to ask. This my friends leads to vanity. And some of us won't ask for prayers because we think that someone else might think that we're not holy enough to heal ourselves. Once again, my friends... vanity raises its ugly head. And the sad truth of it is that even some of the people that we call brothers and sisters... don't really believe in prayers! And I know that many of you may be thinking "how could a brother or a sister not believe in prayer?" ... but I've seen it myself with my own eyes. There are some people out there... even among us... who love to talk the talk but never have really walked the walk... and this my friends is a shame. What did James just tell us in James 4:2-3?:

Jas 4:2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

You do not have... because you do not ask. That's a big one my friends... if you're hurting.. if you're in pain... if you're in need... and you do not ask him... what do you suppose that tells him? Do yourself a favor my friends... let your requests be made known before our Father. Put it at his feet... even if you have faith as small as a mustard seed... you can move mountains! I for one have seen it done many times in my life... and I'll bet if you'll think about it... you have too.

And what about this "singing praise" that we find James talking about in verse 13? Is music okay? Can we have music in church? David himself was a musician... in fact Saul called on David to play for him when the demons were oppressing him and David's music made the demons flee from Saul. Can we lift our voices in praise to him? You bet we can... and I tell you the truth my friends this often times goes right back to grumbling. How many times have we heard someone say that music in church is wrong, or that one type of music or another is wrong? If our brother is praising our Father and his only begotten Son in song and music... who are we to grumble and tell him that he can't? Even David himself danced before our Father in Heaven and was shamed by his wife... and yet he shunned her... because his joy in our Father was more important than the voice of a grumbling wife. All praise belongs to him... and no one should shame someone for praising him with song or with music just because they don't like the genre of the music.

Now... with ... there is a music that has no place in a Christians home... but I think that we are all adult enough to know that as well. And so I will not lecture anyone on what they should or

should not listen too. If you do not already know what is appropriate in the eyes of our Father... then you need only to spend some time in your prayer closet in fellowship with our Father... and he will make known to you what he accepts and what he does not. And I think that all of you teenagers out there know exactly what I'm talking about... so I won't pick on you... today.

Moving right along... Let's hear how James closes out his letter to the 12 Tribes of the Dispersion in James 5:19-20:

Jas 5:19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

Jas 5:20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Now I want us to stop for a moment and really think about what James is telling us in contrast to what we find in Hebrews chapter 10. Here in James chapter 5 verses 19 and 20 James seems to be telling us that we can bring back a sinner from his wondering if he wonders off from the truth... but what are we told in Hebrews 10:26-31?:

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

So, which is it exactly... can someone who wonders away from the truth be brought back to the faith or not? Is this a contradiction that we've found in the scripture? I would submit to you that there is no contradiction here at all my friends. Often times what people see as a contradiction in our Father's God-breathed scripture is simply a misunderstanding... and often times it is willful ignorance that keeps people from knowing the truth of what the scripture says.

In the book of Hebrews Paul is talking about someone who deliberately sins on purpose, and willingly chooses to do so. He's talking about someone who has defiantly waved off the mercy and the grace of our Father in Heaven and has outwardly rejected the word of our Father and his only begotten Son, and has openly and willfully traded the free gift of salvation offered to him by his Messiah and made himself a friend of this world so that he can willingly and openly return to the mire of this world because he loves it more than he loves his Messiah.

James on the other hand is talking about someone who has wondered off... this person who has wondered off has never blatantly rejected the word of God. He has never really turned from the faith... he has simply wondered off and gotten caught up in the things of the world. You see there is a difference between these two kinds of individuals that Paul and James are talking about. These two individuals are as different as night and day. All of us have wondered... all of us have strayed... but few of us have blatantly, and openly rejected the gift that we've been given. Few of us have openly decided that God is a liar, and his son does not exist so that we can willingly go back like a dog to our vomit.

We must understand my friends... that in this world that we now live in... there are people out there who have deliberately made themselves the seed of Satan. They have chosen wrongly... they have willingly and openly chosen evil over good... because for the moment... to them... evil is just too much fun. It's just too much fun to steal his neighbor's wife, and to kick the dog as he walks by... it's just too much fun to cast in with the drunkards and the idolaters, and the divination of diviners, and fortune tellers... it's just too much fun to cast his eyes upon the sins of the world... it's just too much fun to punch an elderly person in the face just to watch him hit the ground... it's just too much fun to cast his eyes upon every wicked thing that Hollywood chooses to splash across the silver screen... it's just too much fun to give his ear to every foul song that our music industry chooses to pump out over the air waves. It's just too much fun for him to return like a pig to his mire. And so, he has openly and willfully rejected and blasphemed the Ruach Hakodesh of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

There is a difference my friends between the two-people spoken of by both Paul and James. One who wonders can be brought back... but one who has blasphemed the Ruach Hakodesh of God cannot. And so, the contradiction... dies... and the truth once again shines from the pages of our God breathed scriptures.

And so, my friends... let us be the ones who save souls from death... and let us be the ones who cover a multitude of sins. Let us be the ones who look out after one another, and let us be the ones who confess our sins and reach out for help when we need it. Let us bind together through our weaknesses and through our strength, and let us lift one another up in the love of truth, and the light of his mercy and his grace. Let us walk in that narrow path that we have found through the truth of his God breathed scriptures, and let us usher our brothers and sisters into the coming kingdom with confidence... rebuking and exhorting what is false and contending for the faith as we continually pray for the endurance that we all so desperately need in these last days.

James spoke nothing to the 12 Tribes of the Dispersion that he would not speak to any and every Christian who follows his brother who was indeed also his very own Messiah. My prayer is that we would let the words of James ring true in our hearing and give glory and praise to the one who gave him what to say in these God breathed scriptures that we have just read.

Blessed... and holy is the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... who is the King of

Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Judge of Judges, the Ruler of Rulers, the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Creator of the Heavens and Earth... and his son... who is the door that no man can shut... the Passover lamb... the only way... the only propitiation for sin... the Son of God... the Messiah spoken of from the lips of Moses... the seed of David, and the seed of the woman who has crushed the head of the serpent, and allowed the head of the serpent to bruise his heel. Our brother... our King... our God given Messiah... Yahshua Hamashiach.

Praise be to the glory of Yahovah and his only begotten son who gave James the light of truth that he has just shared with us. And let us now, go and share that light with others.