

James 5
5:1-10

The **UNSAVED** wickedly rich
(You don't see the term "brother" or "repentance" or "coming back to the Lord" in vv1-6)
(MacArthur believes its written to Christians because its written in the 2nd person ("you"))

You poor who are oppressed by these wickedly rich men - - respond properly despite the terrible situation
(James calls these people "Brothers")
(vv7-11)

Their Future!

3 commands from James

v4 - You have robbed your workers of their wages

v5 - You are living lives of luxurious self indulgence

v6 - You have condemned and murdered these righteous laborers; they do not resist you

v7-8 - Be PATIENT until the Lord's coming !
(James 1:2-4)

V8 - Strengthen your hearts! (Let the HOPE that all will be made right in the end strengthen you!)

v9 - Cease from complaining (the tongue) against one another - Christ is right at the door!

James 5

5:1-4

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Nothing more clearly reveals the state of a person's heart than his view of money and material possessions

1 Tim 6:10

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs

Their Future!

v4 - You have robbed their workers of their wages

Consider that these are not "Brothers" and its unlikely they will ever hear these words of James.... But the poor people who are "Brothers" will hear what will happen to these wickedly rich - - they are hearing "future justice".... And these oppressed have their focus on eternal glory

Psalm 73:
3 - 9
16 - 17
25 - 26

Wealth was determined by land, houses, cattle, clothes and gold and silver.

v2 - your clothes are feeding the moths and you're not feeding your workers! (v4)

v3 - the silver and gold is rusting and the rust will witness against you! (You are saving up treasure for the "last days" BUT - you are in he last days NOW... Like asking the person on their deathbed, seconds from dying - - if you could borrow \$5 and they respond - "I can't, I'm saving it !")

v4 - you didnt pay the workers at the end of each day as was the custom - you didnt show up! (Deut 24:14-15, Leviticus 19:13)

v4 - the withheld pay has cried out against you - and the Lord has heard !

Point is - - these "riches" have no eternal value !

v5 - Your current criminal lifestyle of "luxury" and "self-indulgence" is fattening yourselves for the slaughter

The money not given to workers was used to live in luxury!

v1 - weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you

Jesus said - Luke 6:24-26

Psalm 73:3-9

3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity ; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. 9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

Psalm 73:16-17

16 When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me 17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Psalm 73:25-26

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Luke 6:24-25

24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Luke 16:19-25

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.'

James 5
5v5:-6

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Their Future!

v4 - You have robbed their workers of their wages

v5 - You are living lives of luxurious self indulgence

v6 - You have condemned and murdered these righteous laborers; they do not resist you

They had so much money that they controlled the labor force

Ecc. 2:4-11
4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. 10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

James 5
5:1-10
Application

Are United States Christians rich ?

Historic perspective - US is the wealthiest nation in the world today and the wealthiest of all time and we are the wealthiest Christians of all time
Global perspective - We are the wealthiest Christians in the world today
Personally - We are wealthier than our parents, grandparents, great grandparents

Without question, US Christians are rich - and although many commentators believe James is specifically writing to non-Christians in James 5:1-6, there is, nonetheless, a message for rich Christians in James 5:1-6

Are we "wickedly rich" and therefore, sinning?

How should we use our riches?
1 Tim 6:17-19 -
17Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

We can sin 3 ways with our wealth

How we acquire our wealth

How we use our wealth

What our attitude is towards wealth

When we perform an "inventory of our home" do we notice we have so much we cant possibly use it all? Or do we have so many "extras", it proves our "wealth" worldliness?

James condemns selfish extravagance in the use of our wealth. He attacks our use of wealth to create extravagant comfort for ourselves with a focus on luxuries.

James condemns a lack of concern or dealing dishonestly financially with laborers who are not in a position to defend themselves

James condemns using our wealth or wanting to use wealth to hurt others

We are to use them for His Glory
- To provide for our family
- To advance God's Kingdom
- To win the lost
- To care for those in need (1 John 3:16-18)
- To support those in ministry (1 Cor 9:13-14)

"God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving." - Randy Alcorn

If our Christian giving does not have a component of self denial, then it is sinning

1 John 3:16-18
16This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Self denial is not saying "how much have I given" but is saying "how much did I give up (deny myself) in giving"

1 Corinthians 9:13-14
But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. 13Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

James 5
5:7-11

You poor who are oppressed by these wickedly rich men - - respond properly despite the terrible situation
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(vv7-11)

3 commands from James

v7-8 - Be PATIENT until the Lord's coming!
(James 1:2-4)

Patience is the righteous standard God expects all believers to conform to no matter what trial they face.

2 Timothy 3:12 - In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

1 Peter 4:12-13 - 12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Matthew 5:10-12 - 10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 15:20 - 20Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

1 Peter 2:23 - 23When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Psalms 73:3-9 - 3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. 9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

V8 - Strengthen your hearts! (Let the HOPE that all will be made right in the end strengthen you!)

Allowing the commitment to patience to sink deeply into our heart

A grumbling heart and an uncontrolled tongue is not demonstrating patience

Warning !

James warns believers of their wrong reaction to evil may result in God's condemnation toward them

1 Cor 3:13-15
1 Cor 4:5

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

13his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1 Corinthians 4:5

5Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

v9 - Cease from complaining (the tongue) against one another - Christ is right at the door!

Natural reaction is to take out our frustrations on others in the midst of suffering!

James 3:10-11

10Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

1 Thessalonians 5:2,11

2for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 11Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

v9 - Don't complain or you yourself will be judged!
AND the Judge is standing right at the door !

James 5 5:7 - 11

You poor who are oppressed by these wickedly rich men - - respond properly despite the terrible situation (James calls these people "Brothers") (vv7-11)

Conclusion

1. Rarely will the Lord reward faithfulness presently - but He promises to do so eventually - ENDURE!
2. "The bible never belittles disappointment, but it does add one key word: temporary - - What we feel now, we will not always feel. Our disappointment is itself a sign, and aching, a hunger for something better. And faith is, in the end, a kind of homesickness - - for a home we have never visited but have never once stopped longing for." ENDURE!!!! Phillip Yancey
3. Pray "Lord, TODAY, it's not about me - its about your kingdom" - ENDURE!
4. Endurance is long term obedience to the Lord. DONT GIVE UP !!!!!
5. "Suffering, with dignity, may enable you to mark more lives for Christ than anything else you say or do for Christ." Bill Hybels, Pastor - Willow Creek Church - - ENDURE!!!!
6. All Christians must ALL appear alone before the judgement seat of Christ that each one may receive what is due him for the things done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Cor 5:9-11). How diiligently did we use our gifts for the kingdom this week? ENDURE!!!!

3 commands from James

Previous lesson

3 motivations to keep the commands

1. Look for HOPE in the future ! (This should cause you to ENDURE!)

2. Look for HOPE in the past ! (This should cause you to ENDURE!)

3. Look for HOPE in TODAY - In the Lord's character! (This should cause you to ENDURE!)

In the end, God will respond to every evil act and every righteous deed IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER

v7 - The Farmer

v10 - The Prophets

v11 - Job

V11b - The Lord is full of compassion and mercy

God's blessing does not come to people who do great things but to people who endure

The Christian life only makes sense in light of eternity. As a Christian, you KNOW the end - thats HOPE

The Farmer must patiently await the rain to grow his crops.

The prophets suffered persecution not because of any wrongdoing on their part, but because they spoke in the name of the Lord

Ch.1-2

Ch.13v15

Ch.38-39

Ch. 42

Read Ch.1& Ch. 2 - ENDURANCE!! (Job never lost his Faith !)

15 Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;

God asks Job 77 questions; Job cannot answer 1

42v5 When we suffer there will be mystery - will there be FAITH?

During our lifetime - - today !

Those who will receive the greatest blessing in the life to come are those who have endured the greatest suffering for Christ in the present world

There is hope that our patient endurance in suffering will result in good in the end

In Palestine..... Early rains - were in the Fall planting season
Late rains - in the Spring, just before harvesting
To fight against this process is futile

Consider Jeremiah's life - - He ENDURED !!! (see notes hereunder)

If Job cannot answer 77 questions about the "natural world" that can be seen, how can he be expected to understand the meaning of the "spiritual world" which he cannot see?

42v7-10 Restoring and rewarding in the end (which happened in Job's life on earth) - - and so it is with us in eternity (but, perhaps not on earth)

Psalm 30:5 - 5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

It is the second coming of the Lord that brings hope to sustain patience in difficult situations

If the Lord returned right now - would you be ashamed based on what you are doing? We must be found serving the Lord joyfully using the gifts He has given us when He returns!!!

God is saying "I am your answer - when you know me - you can handle anything - I know why you're suffering - you TRUST me

"human beings instinctively regard the seen world as the "real" world and the unseen world as the "unreal" world, but the Bible calls for almost the opposite" - Yancey

The hope of blessing NOW (and in the future) should motivate suffering Christians to patient endurance



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BACKGROUND:

- Jeremiah was a prophet of God for almost 50 years and yet he was chosen as a prophet by God long before that ! How can one be appointed a prophet before his birth? Check it out!
 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations". (God speaking to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5))
 - "But the Lord said to me, "Do not say I am a youth, because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and break down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (Jer 1:7-10)
 - "Now, behold, I have made you today as a fortified city, and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests, and to the people of the land, and they will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord (Jer 1:18-19)
- Time period: 627 bc - 580 bc (48 yrs)
- Prior to this time period, the divided kingdom period existed; The Northern kingdom, known as Israel, consisted of 10 tribes; The Southern kingdom, known as Judah, consisted of 2 tribes.
- In 722 bc (100 yrs before Jeremiah), the Northern kingdom was destroyed and carried off to Assyria. (Throughout the book of Jeremiah, he proclaims did you not remember what the Lord did to your brothers in Israel?)
- In 612 bc, Nineveh, the capital of Assyria was captured by the Babylonians.
- In 605 bc, Egypt was defeated by Babylon
- Therefore, Jeremiah was a prophet to the remaining kingdom, the Southern kingdom (Judah). Interestingly, Jeremiah prophesied during their last years **and** was present for their destruction and captivity by Babylon in 586 bc
- Jeremiah, a prophet for 50 years, served under the following kings of Judah:

king	period	known for
Josiah	640 - 609 bc (31 years- Jeremiah came in the 13th yr of his reign)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came to the throne at 8 yrs old, ruling for 31 yrs • One of the most Godly kings in all of Judah despite inheriting a throne <i>where corruption was its worst ever in the 400 year history of Judah.</i> • Reinstated God's law as Judah's way of life and worshipped the Lord in the restored temple. • 2 Ki 23:25 - "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with the Law of Moses."

Jehoahaz	609 bc (3 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Josiah who reigned only 3 months • He chose evil ! • Pharaoh of Egypt took Jehoahaz captive and Jehoahaz died in captivity • During this time, Babylon becomes a world power
Jehoiakim	609 - 597 bc (11 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on the throne by Egypt, while his brother Jehoahaz was in prison in Egypt • First, Jehoiakim was a puppet king under Egypt and then under Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon • Burned the scroll of God's word dictated by Jeremiah. • He revolted against Nebuchadnezzar and was carried off and died in captivity
Jehoiachin	597 bc (3 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandson of Josiah • He was a political prisoner in Babylon for 37 yrs. • He was then treated kindly, treated as royalty and dining with the king.
Zedekiah	597 - 586 bc (11 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Josiah, the third son to reign. • For 2 yrs, Babylon laid seige outside the city to cause a famine • Main portion of people had been carried off to Babylon • Jeremiah pleaded with Zedekiah to submit to Babylon and be carried off into captivity • Zedekiah imprisons Jeremiah • Zedekiah follows the advice of Egypt and rebels against Babylon • Jeremiah prophesies 70 yrs of exile • Zedekiah's sons were slain before his eyes and his own eyes were put out and he was carried in chains to Babylon.
None	586 bc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of the 510 yr Jewish kingdom begun under Saul and, at its apex, under King David.

THE SUFFERING

(some information provided by Rich Vincent, Singles minister, College Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN)

- God clearly stated that Jeremiah's ministry would be very difficult and full of suffering:
 - "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them... They will fight against you but but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you" declares the Lord. (Jer 1:17-18)
- For almost 50 years, Jeremiah preached a very unpopular message of repentance to the people of Judah. For this same time period, there was no measurable change in their lives. (Can you imagine dedicating your whole life to a cause and having it fall on deaf ears ?)
- In addition, he was shunned, rejected, imprisoned beaten and persecuted - **FOR 50 YEARS !!!!**. He had few, if any, friends, no sympathizers to his cause, never married or have children because God instructed him not to (Jer 16:2) and lived a life marked by constant sadness. Consider 9:1 - "Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people."
- Jeremiah's outer troubles:
 - The people will not listen or answer Jeremiah (7:25, 17:23)

- False prophets preached good news to the people (14:14, 23:16-17,21, 30-34)
- People devised plans to bring him down (18:18, 22)
- People wanted to kill him (11:19, 21-23, 18:23, 38:4)
- His own relatives betrayed him (12:6)
- Not allowed to go to a house of feasting with anyone (16:8)
- He was beaten and put in stocks by a temple overseer (20:2)
- He experienced social rejection, mockings and public ridicule - "a laughingstock all day long" (20:7)
- Everytime he spoke, he cried aloud (20:8)
- All his trusted friends are watching for his fall and ready to take revenge (20:10)
- The word of the Lord resulted in reproach and derision all day long (20:8)
- He was seized by the priests, prophets and all the people in order to put him to death (26:8-15)
- He was shutup in the king's prison (32:1-5)
- He was forbidden to go into the temple (36:5)
- He was accused of treason, beaten, placed in a dungeon cell for many days (37:11-16)
- He was committed to the court of the guardhouse until the day Jerusalem was captured (37:21, 38:28)
- He was imprisoned in a muddy cistern, where he was let down with ropes and he sank in the mud and left starving for dead (38:6-10)
- He was held under arrest in the courtyard of the guard until Jerusalem was captured (38:14-28)
- Taken in chains as an exile into Babylon
- Taken with the remnant to Egypt, against God's commands
- Tradition states Jeremiah was stoned to death in Egypt

- Jeremiah's inner struggles:

- 4:19 - 21 - Read Jeremiah's words: "Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry. Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment. How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?"
- 7:30 - 8:1 - Jeremiah is told about the future of Judah - - named the "Valley of Slaughter". "The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it. They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire-something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind. So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call it Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter, for they will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room. Then the carcasses of this people will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away. I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, for the land will become desolate. 'At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings and officials of Judah, the bones of the priests and prophets, and the bones of the people of Jerusalem will be removed from their graves.'"
- 8:18-22 - "O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?" "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." Since my people are crushed,

I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?"

- o 9:1-6 - "Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people. Oh, that I had in the desert a lodging place for travelers, so that I might leave my people and go away from them; for they are all adulterers, a crowd of unfaithful people. "They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the LORD . "Beware of your friends; do not trust your brothers. For every brother is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer. Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning. You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me," declares the LORD . "

- o 10:19-25 - "Woe to me because of my injury! My wound is incurable! Yet I said to myself, "This is my sickness, and I must endure it." My tent is destroyed; all its ropes are snapped. My sons are gone from me and are no more; no one is left now to pitch my tent or to set up my shelter. The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the LORD ; so they do not prosper and all their flock is scattered. Listen! The report is coming- a great commotion from the land of the north! It will make the towns of Judah desolate, a haunt of jackals. Jeremiah's Prayer I know, O LORD , that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps. Correct me, LORD , but only with justice- not in your anger, lest you reduce me to nothing. Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the peoples who do not call on your name. For they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him completely and destroyed his homeland. "

- o 11:14, 14:11-12 - The Lord commanded Jeremiah not to even pray for his people, not to cry for them, for He vowed not to listen to their prayers.

- o 14:7 - "Although our sins testify against us, O LORD , do something for the sake of your name. For our backsliding is great; we have sinned against you. "

- o 14:19-22 - "Have you rejected Judah completely? Do you despise Zion? Why have you afflicted us so that we cannot be healed? We hoped for peace but no good has come, for a time of healing but there is only terror. O LORD , we acknowledge our wickedness and the guilt of our fathers; we have indeed sinned against you. For the sake of your name do not despise us; do not dishonor your glorious throne. Remember your covenant with us and do not break it. Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, O LORD our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this. "

- o 15:1-4 - Jeremiah knew what was going to happen to these people - the 4 dooms of the Lord - the sword to slay, the dogs to drag off, the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.

- o 15:10-11 - "Alas, my mother, that you gave me birth, a man with whom the whole land strives and contends! I have neither lent nor borrowed, yet everyone curses me. The LORD said, "Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose; surely I will make your enemies plead with you in times of disaster and times of distress. "

- o 15:15-18 - "You understand, O LORD ; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering-do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails?"

- o 19:9 - Jeremiah knew what was going to happen to these people - "And I shall make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat one another's

flesh in the siege..."

- o 20:9 - If I speak I am terribly persecuted - If I don't it's as if my heart is a burning fire shut up in my bones - I cannot hold it in and endure it.
 - o 20:14, 18 - Cursed the day of his birth wishing his mother was his grave
 - o 20:18 - His birth resulted in seeing only trouble and sorrow and believed all his days were spent in shame
- Jeremiah stayed faithful to his calling despite seeing the deterioration of the nation leading to their destruction and captivity.
- Here's how the people caused their deterioration:
 - o Idolatry (Jer 2:13,19,27-28,10:3-11; 13:10, 16:18, 20, 22:8-9)
 - o They made sacrifices to other gods
 - o They set up idols *inside the temple*(7:30, 32:34)
 - o ***They sacrificed their own children*** ! (7:31; 19:4-5; 32:35)
 - o They served an abundance of gods, breaking the covenant with the one true God (11:9-14)
 - o They and their forefathers had evil hearts (16:11-12)
 - o In the final stages, God is seen as an adversary and the idols are considered their friends and saviors (44:16-19)
 - o The people loved the false prophets which God found "appalling", "horrible" and "shocking" (5:30-31; 6:14; 8:8-12; 14:14-16; 23)
 - o Judah is compared to a wild donkey in heat that lustfully pursues any lover available (2:20, 24-25)
 - o Judah is compared to an unfaithful wife (3:20)
 - o Judah is compared to well fed lusty horses (5:7-9)
 - o Judah is compared to a shameless prostitute (3:1, 6-8, 13-27)
 - Jeremiah witnessed all this and pleaded and wept for the people. He was known as the weeping prophet; when he cried it was always to God in prayer, for no one else would listen and yet God never turned a deaf ear.
 - God, therefore, divorces Judah as he divorced Israel (3:1,8) and abandons her to her lovers (12:7-8)
 - o God breaks this covenant requiring a new covenant fulfilled thru Jesus Christ!
 - Jeremiah prophesied the destruction of Judah for almost 50 yrs. and when it finally happens, he breaks down and weeps.

THE RESPONSE

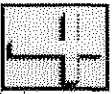
*(some information provided by Rich Vincent, Singles minister, College Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN)**

- Jeremiah was sustained by the Lord's frequent reaffirmations of his commission as a prophet (Jer 7:2, 27-28, 11:2, 6; 13:12-13, 17:19-20)
- Jeremiah had undying confidence in God and His promises (15:20, 20:12, 29:14, 32:1-15)
- Jeremiah had tremendous knowledge of God (9:23-24, 22:15-16)
- Jeremiah's situation forced him to personally find solace and strength in the Lord alone !
 - o Jeremiah's viewed the Lord as:
 - o Creator of all things (10:12-16; 51:15-19)
 - o Omnipotent (32:27; 48:15; 51:57)
 - o Omnipresent (23:24)
 - o Sovereign Deliverer (20:11, 32:17-25)
 - o Lord of the Nations (5:15; 18:7-10; 25:17-28; 46-51)
- Jeremiah has been rightly called the ***most Christlike of ALL the prophets.***
 - o Some Hebrew scholars feel that Isaiah 53 is about Jeremiah and not Christ !

- When Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, *Jeremiah*, or one of the prophets. (Mt 16:13-14)



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James 5 5:12

Because we all lie and all are dishonest, it has led men to impose oaths on others in a futile attempt to force them to be truthful and keep their promises

Swearing Oaths

The custom

Back in the OT days, there were no written contracts, so your word was very important.

When making a deal, the people of the time felt it was necessary to give an oath in order to make their word binding

Jews not only swore by the "name of the Lord", but also developed a practice of swearing false, evasive, deceptive oaths by everything other than the "name of the Lord"

Swearing by the name of the Lord was the only one considered binding!

In their thinking, God was only party to the oath if His name was invoked. All other oaths could be (and were intended to be) violated without committing perjury

Many Jews would swear by the Temple/ Jerusalem/Heaven/ The altar/the veil in the Temple/thier own heads - - anything but the "name of the Lord"

"it was said to the people long ago" - is not the OT, but is rabinnic tradition

Matthew 5
Oaths
33"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago. 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No,' anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

The purpose was to hide their lying hearts!

Jesus' Response

Matthew 23
16"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' 17You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? 18You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' 19You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. 22And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

James Exhortation (5v12a)

"False swearing" is prohibited because a Spirit-transformed heart will reveal itself in honest speech

How people speak is the most revealing test of their true Spiritual state

The importance of speech to James is evident in his inclusion of it in every chapter:
1:26
2:12
3:2-11
4:11
5:12

Heb 6:13-17 - The Certainty of God's Promise
13When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. 16Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged

Swearing oaths by heaven or by earth (5v12b)

James does not forbid taking an oath in the "name of the Lord" but does forbid any other type

The Bible does not forbid taking oaths, acknowledging that in a world filled with liars, there are times when oath are necessary

Integrity - "let your yes be yes and no, no" (5v12c)

People of integrity have no need to swear elaborate oaths to convince others of their truthfulness

Paul: Ephesians 4:25
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Speaking the truth in all situations will cause believers to shine forth in the darkness of a world of lies

Numbers 30 - Vows
1 Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel: "This is what the LORD commands: 2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

Or you will fall under God's judgement (5v12d)

Those whose lives are characterized by a pattern of lying give evidence of an unregenerate heart

Liars are spiritual children of the "father of lies" - the devil - and will be sentenced to hell

John 8:44 - 44You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

James 5

5:13-14

Focus on prayer is the key for the suffering believer

Looking back.....

- Ch. 5:1-6 - Unjust treatment by the wickedly rich people
- Ch. 5:7-12 - ENDURANCE in the face of unjust treatment
- Ch. 5:13-18 - Prayer in the face of unjust treatment

1. "Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God." - D. Martin Lloyd Jones
2. "What a man is alone on his knees before God, that he is an no more." - Mcshane
3. Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - I Thes 5:16-18
4. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. - Romans 8:26
5. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. - Eph 6:18

Focus is on prayer in every verse of 5:13-18

Types of prayer

- When suffering
- When Joyful
- When Sick

- v13 a - If suffering, let him pray (James1:5)
- v14 a - If sick, have the elders pray
- v15 a - Prayer offered in faith will restore
- v16 a - Confess your sins and pray for one another
- v16 b - Effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much
- v17 b - Elijah prayed for it not to rain
- v18 b - Elijah prayed for it to rain

5v13a -
Pray for yourself for any kind of suffering

5v13b-
If you have a joyful attitude in the midst of suffering - - Praise! (which is a form of prayer)

V14 - Kauffmann interpretation

The prayer offered in faith

V14 -MacArthur interpretation

Prayer is the first reaction any Christian should have in the face of suffering

Pray over a very sick person. (A person who is so PHYSICALLY sick they can't make it to the church; can't make it out of bed)

Pray over a very sick person. (NOT a physical sickness but a SPIRITUAL sickness)

- Dont complain!
- Don't grumble!
- Don't tell a friend!

Phil 4:6
Col 4:2

Philippians 4:6
6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Colossians 4:2
2Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Support for this position:

1. the verse says "he should call the elders" meaning that he is too sick to go to the elders and the elders have to go to him.
2. the elders do all the praying here.
3. the term James uses for "sick" indicates it is a grave or prolonged sickness
4. the sick person is not called upon to exercise faith, like Jesus' healings in the Gospels (presuming the person is at such a low point, nothing is being asked of him)
5. elders are asked to "pray over the sick person"

Support for this position:

1. Physical sickness is not in harmony with the Scriptures. The context is the evil treatment the 'wickedly rich' have inflicted on the poor - resulting in Spiritual sickness.
2. These sufferers have tried to draw on God's power through prayer but are now so broken down they cannot pray on their own
3. The elders are called upon to pray because they are spiritually strong and mature.
4. The elder's prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick.
5. Their prayer will deliver weak, defeated believers from their spiritual weakness and restore them to spiritual wholeness.
6. "If he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him" provides further evidence the passage speaks of spiritual healing. Spiritual defeat is often both the cause and result of sin. The answer is to confess the sin to God and obtain His forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
7. If sin has contributed to or resulted from the spiritual weakness and defeat of a fallen believer, that sn will be forgiven him when he cries out to Gof for forgiveness.
8. The elders can encourage him to confess, help him discern his sins and join him in prayer.

Why??

1. Because you need ENDURANCE (5:7-12)
2. Because it is the source of growth!

1 Peter 5:6-7
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2 Cor 1:3-4
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Anointing is performed to "set you apart for God"

One will see a number of "anointings" in the OT when selected persons are set apart for God

Roman Catholic's sacrament of "extreme unction" ("Last Rites" / "Anointing of the Sick" on their deathbed) arguably comes from this verse

Who is an Elder?

Elder's requirements are defined in the Word (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1)

James 5 5:15-18

2 (of many different) interpretations of vv15-16 (in a PHYSICAL SICKNESS)

V 16

V 17-18

One Interpretation
V15-16 refers to a incapacitating sickness as a direct result of sin ONLY

Another Interpretation
V15-16 refers to an incapacitating sickness due to any cause, which is not made clear in Scripture, and is not the point of these verses

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed

- MacArthur says, James then turns to the congregation exhorting them to continually confess their sins to one another and not wait until those sins drag believers to the depths of spiritual defeat.
- Sin is the most dangerous to isolated believers so James calls for mutual honesty and confession and says "pray for one another".
- The energetic prayers of a righteous man are a potent force in calling down the power of God for restoring weak, struggling believers to spiritual health.

5v17-18 - Prayer of Elijah

v17a - Elijah was just like us despite being one of the giants of the Jewish faith (In the same group as Abraham, Moses and David !)

- He was hungry (1 Ki 17:11)
- He was afraid (1 Ki 19:3)
- He was depressed (1 Ki 19:3, 9-14)

But - when he prayed earnestly, incredible things happened.

We can be encouraged that our prayers likewise will have great effect

Don't ever discount prayer, don't ever underestimate the power of prayer.

5v15 -

Promise #1:
Prayer of faith will heal the sick person and the Lord will raise him up -- IF THE SIN IS A RESULT OF SICKNESS ONLY

Promise #2:
If he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him

5v15 -

Promise #1:
Prayer of faith will heal the sick person and the Lord will raise him up -- PERIOD

Promise #2:
If he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him

The Greek interpretation of this verse applies to a "physical healing"

In v15, the use of the word IF makes this a difficult option.... "If he has committed sins"..... The whole theory is based on the fact that the sickness is CAUSED BY SIN

What happens if the person isn't healed like the Bible promises clearly in v. 15?

What happens if the person isn't healed like the Bible promises clearly in v. 15?

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much

The conclusion is the sickness was not caused by sin - so there is not a promised physical healing in Scripture

- Process (John Piper)
1. The words "prayer offered in faith" is found nowhere else in the Bible
 2. The Elder's "seek" God's gifting of faith so that they may pray this "prayer offered in faith"
 3. There is "faith" that comes as a special gift to pray for something extraordinary - 1 Corinthian 12:9
 4. This "spiritual gift" allows the receiver to pray -- a completely assured prayer similar to Mark 11:23-24
 5. And this "prayer offered in faith" will heal the sick person - it is assured!

1 Corinthian 12:9
the gift of the Spirit -
- "to another gifts of healing by that one spirit"

"The picture of rain pouring down on parched ground illustrates God's outpouring of spiritual blessing on the dry and parched souls of struggling believers."

And this is done in response to the righteous prayers of godly people

5v16 - appears to support this contention by saying, **THEREFORE,** Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed

1 Corinthian 13:2
If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Mark 11:23-24
"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

James 5 5:19-20

The wrong heart
Genesis 4:8-9

Yes, you are your "brother's keeper"

Overview
v13 - Christians looking after themselves in prayer
v14-15 - Christian's looking after each other when one is sick
v16 - Christian's looking after each other when one has sinned

The "brother's keeper" heart
Galatians 6:1-2
Col 3:12-13
Gal 5:22-23
Matt 5:3-12

Like Paul, we are to have the same level of concern for our Brothers who stray from the truth :

1. the church was a constant concern of Paul's
2. The sin of believers caused Paul to "inwardly burn"

v19a - My Brothers

Clearly speaking of Christian Brothers

Christian Brothers are now called to look after each other in another area

1. When you join a Church, you become part of a Church family
2. You place yourself under the authority of the elders
3. You become responsible for caring for each other in the Church
4. You are to use your spiritual gifts given to you by God within the Church
5. You are to be in fellowship with those in the Church

v19a - If anyone strays

It is evident when a Believer begins to wander. The Believer is probably not :
v13 - praying for himself in difficult times
v16 - confessing their sins to one another

John 8:31-32
To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 16:13
But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

v19a -strays from the truth

John 14:6
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Luke 22:31-32
"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

v19b -and one turns him back

Ezekiel 3:17-19
"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 18 When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. 19 But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself."

v20 - Let him know that one who turns a sinner from his ways

v20a - will save his soul from death

v20b - will cover a multitude of sins

3 theories

our sins - Ezek 3:17-19

their sins

future sins

you can save the person from many "future" sins if you can win a believer back who has wandered

2 Corinthians 11:26-29
I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

The consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

1 Benefits
A night of pleasure

Many Consequences
David commits adultery w/ Bathsheba, she's pregnant
David has Bathsheba's husband murdered
David has 9 months to 1 yr of agonizing pain (Psalm 32)
Broken relationship with God (Psalm 51)
David takes the widow Bathsheba as his wife
The baby dies
The Lord speaks:
"The sword shall never depart from your house" 2 Samuel 12:10
"The Lord will raise up evil against you from your own household"- 2 Samuel 12:11
Amnon (David's son) rapes his sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13)
Absalom (another son) has Amnon murdered as a result
Absalom attempts to overthrow David from the throne
David is overthrown by son
David goes into hiding to save his life
David is betrayed by his close friend
20,000 die in a war between David and Absalom
Absalom, his son dies