

Countdown Video Snow Scene 1
Music Video: Strong God
Slide Background: Stand Strong
Video Illustration: `The Power Is in Your Hands
Sermon Series: Book of James 11/22/2015

Title: Concluding Thoughts
Sermon Text: James 5:1-11

- I. **Big Idea:** James is winding down his letter he has written to Christians. It is almost as if he is adding a Post Scrip (P.S.) to his writing. These last thought are not about unimportant matters but it concerns those who are (1) Patient When Wronged (vs.1-6), (2) Pure in Speech (5:12), (3) Prayerful in Trials (vs. 13-18), (4) Persistent in Soul-Winning (vs. 19-20) being patience concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ and the importance of what we say. Each of these points in James 5 are not an afterthought but important matters for the Christian to consider as we live in this world and wait for the coming of Jesus for His Church.. James has been thorough in his teaching to the Christian. He continues to point out the pitfalls of the world and the promise of the blessings of the Lord.

Text Illustration: Charlie Brown and Linus.

Charlie Brown asks Linus "What would you do if you felt that nobody liked you?"

Linus responds "Well Charlie Brown I guess I would take a real hard look at myself, ask if I am doing anything that turns people off, How can I improve myself? Do I need to change in some way? Yep that's my answer Charlie Brown."

Charlie Brown says, "I hate that answer."

That seems to be what James is saying to you and I as we wait for His coming. We need to look at ourselves and make changes where changes are needed and "change them"

Read Sermon Text

James 5:1-11 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabbath. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and

latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. NKJV

Sermon Point 1: Patient When Wronged (vs.1-6)

James 5:1-6 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. NKJV

- a. It has been said that in this world there two kinds of people “The haves and the have not’s”. James is voicing a warning to the “haves” that the riches of this world will not provide everlasting satisfaction and could be a stumbling block to person spiritual life. He is warning them of the dangers of trusting in the wealth of this world to provide happiness.
- b. In Genesis 19. We see a man of wealth SITTING AT THE GATE of the city. Lot was a rich man with many servants when he came to Sodom. He joined with the other wealthy in a corrupt city such as this. It is his wealth that enabled him to sit at the gate as a city judge? Big businessman, judge and city leader. A GREAT MAN IN A CITY DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION. His wealth would be his destruction, James is warning all who consider themselves wealthy to not let their wealth get in their way of serving God. Don’t let the greed for wealth drive them to the point of dishonesty in your dealings with others. Don’t let your wealth entice you to living in the lap of luxury and blind your eyes to what is really important in life.

Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; NKJV

- c. Luke 12 encourage a person of wealth to give to those who have need and lay up what we really treasure in heaven, where it can’t be destroyed by the greed and desires of this world. We have just conclude what has come to be known as “Black Friday” but let me tell you of another “Black Day” in history, On October 24, 1929, the stock market bubble finally burst, as investors began dumping shares of stock. A record 12.9 million

shares were traded that day, known as “Black Thursday.” Five days later, on “Black Tuesday” some 16 million shares were traded after another wave of panic swept Wall Street. Millions of shares ended up worthless, and those investors who had bought stocks “on margin” (with borrowed money) were wiped out completely. James warns that the wealth of this world is only temporary and could be gone in an instance. The day following the “Stock Market Crash of 1929” many of those wealthy men took their own lives because they lost it all. He is not saying that the wealth is wrong or bad but it is the overwhelming desire for wealth that destroys and it would be better to be poor in this world and rich in all that God has prepared for us. Than to let the love for wealth destroy our lives.

Luke 12:33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. NKJV

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, NKJV

Text Illustration: According to John de Graaf in his book, "Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic," the average American household carried a credit-card debt of \$7,654 in the year 2000. Our supermarkets provide us an average choice of 30,000 items, about two and a half times the number of choices available in 1980. We now boast four times as many self-storage units as we stuffed in the 1960's. De Graf claims America's 102 million households are bursting with more material goods "...than all the households put together from all history." If we ate as we bought, our stomachs would have ruptured decades ago.

II. Pure in Speech (5:12)

James 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and you're "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment. NKJV

- a. There is an epidemic in this world, it is contagious to all who chose to be infected. While it is not life threatening it is just as destructive and the most dreaded illness this world has to offer. It gives no quarter it is contracted by men, women, and children. This epidemic is not limited to the young, young adult, or senior adult. Modern medicine has no cure or is there a vaccine to prevent it. It has many names but genially it is known as “swearing”. James writes “do not swear” while the word swear could refer to taking an oath I long for the days when a person spoke in an intelligent way and their word was there bond. In society today people’s word means nothing. There was a day when a person gave their word and it was as good as signing a 20 page contract. People bought property on a hand

shake they borrowed money on their promise to repay and they spoke in a manner which could be heard by anyone regardless of age. But this is not true of today. The way you can tell some people are not truthful is that their mouth is moving. And We need warnings on the entertainment we see such as “Contains Adult Language” maybe people should be required to wear warning labels that read “ Warning: This mouth spews out obscenities ”. While I realize that is not going to happen James tell the Christian believer we have a standard by which we live. That standard is Jesus, don’t defile it with lies and trash talk.

Text Illustration:

Have you ever heard of the expression, “Your name will be mud?” Do you know where it originated? Samuel Alexander Mudd was the doctor who set John Wilkes Booth’s leg after Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln in Ford’s Theater in 1865. Mudd claimed he didn’t recognize Booth—didn’t really know him. But a military court thought otherwise. He was found guilty as an accessory after the fact in the assassination and was sentenced to life in a federal prison.

But that’s not the end of the story. While in prison, Mudd saved the lives of many prisoners and guards during a yellow fever epidemic. In 1869 he was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson. However, his name persists to this day as one of derision. A name is a hard thing to shake and so is the reputation that it stands for. **Ecclesiastes 7:1** says, “A good name is better than fine perfume.” Also, **Proverbs 22:1** says, “A good name is more desirable than great riches

III. Prayerful in Trials (vs. 13-18)

James 5:13-18 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. NKJV

- a. In **Luke 19:46** Jesus stated that His house “The Church” should be a house of prayer. James stresses the importance of prayer by listing some situations when prayer is really import. While is important all the time James stress the prayer for those who are happy, sad or sick. And prayer is needed for those who are in sin to pray for their salvation.
- b. The he points out that the prayer of the righteous man goes a long way with God. An example is given of Elijah in 1 Kings 17 as Elijah prayed for God to withhold the rain and then later asked God to allow the rain to fall again. When our heart is clean (1Jn 1:9) God listens to His children.

Luke 19:46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

IV. **Persistent in Soul-Winning (vs. 19-20)**

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

NKJV

- a. We are reminded that as a Christian we have a mandate to share the message of the Gospel to the loss of this world. Jesus, Himself gave us the “Great Commission” in Matthew 28 to make disciples but it doesn’t end there. James point out that if we see a fellow Christian straying from the truth we should attempt to refocused his or her attention back on Jesus. For we are our brother’s keeper. Casual reading of this verse could imply that a Christian who loses his way could lose his salvation however, we must remember that our salvation is secure. And our past sins, our present sins and our future sins have been forgiven. Therefore our salvation is secure but we must help to guide those who stray.

Maybe James is saying the way a little child said it as he prayed:

Text Illustration: PRAYER OF A YOUNG CHILD

"Bless my mommy and daddy...and dear God, take good care of Yourself. If anything happens to You, we're sunk." SOURCE: Pastor Tim, <http://www.cybersalt.org>

Text Illustration: WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS OF FREEDOM

"We in this country, in this generation, are by destiny rather than choice the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

--John F. Kennedy (from a speech that was never delivered, due to Kennedy's death) SOURCE: Presidential Prayer Team Update for April 4, 2003.