

Warnings & A Call to Prayer
Lesson #7
James 4:13-5:20

Warning against Boasting – James 4:13-17

1. In this next section, James begins by emphasizing “now listen!” Whom does he say he is calling to listen? (James 4:13)
2. Of what does James remind them? (James 4:14)
3. What is to be the attitude of the believer? (James 4:15)
4. What does James say that they are doing? (James 4:16)
5. What reminder does he give? (James 4:17)

Warning against Oppression – James 5:1-6

6. Who was the next audience James calls to “now listen?” (James 5:1a)
7. He says they should weep and wail; why? (James 5:1b-3a)
8. What does James accuse them of doing in each of the following verses?
 - James 5:3b
 - James 5:4
 - James 5:5
 - James 5:6

Encouragement – James 5:7-11

9. James challenges his audience to “be patient.” How long does he say they are to be patient? (James 5:7a)
10. How does he use the farmer as an example for encouragement? (James 5:7b, 8)
11. While patiently waiting and standing firm, what does James say they are not do to and why? (James 5:9)
12. Returning to his original reason for writing, which was to encourage these believers during times of suffering, to whom does James link perseverance with suffering as another example? (James 5:10, 11)

Conclusion – James 5:12-20

13. What behavior does James say is not acceptable for the believer? (James 5:12a)
14. What should believers do? (James 5:12b)
15. James understood that the audience to whom he was writing would continue to face suffering and persecution. He encouraged them to remain patient and to persevere during these difficult times. After warning them about what was not acceptable behavior, he gave encouragement and some practical teaching on the proper way for the believer to act in times of difficulty. Using James 5:13 - 15 what if:
 - Someone is in trouble?
 - Someone is sick?
 - What will a prayer offered in faith do?

16. Since this is true, James adds “therefore” what are the believers to do? (James 5:16a)
17. What promise does James make? (James 5:16b)
18. James illustrated what he meant by using the great prophet Elijah as an example. What were Elijah’s prayers able to accomplish? (James 5:17, 18)
19. Using verses 13 – 18, look closely at the importance James places upon prayer.
- How many times does he mention the word pray(er) and prayed?
 - In verses 15 & 16, what does James say about the prayer?
- Reflect** on James’ teaching about prayer. Based upon verses 13 – 16, what can you learn about prayer for your own life?
20. Throughout his letter James showed the importance of living in community with other believers. Whenever a believer experiences trials, persecution, sickness or any other problem, other believers are to come alongside to give strength and encouragement. Therefore, before he ends his letter, James reminded them of the importance of that responsibility to one another. What did he say they are to do if one of them should “*wander from the truth?*” (James 5:19)
21. James closes his letter on a very positive note. If they will listen and obey his words, what final encouragement does he give? (James 5:20)