10/31/21

Sun pm

James: Life as a Servant of Jesus, p12

“When They Test Your Patience”

James 5:7-11

* Be patient
  + “Therefore” = points back to the people that are oppressing and doing the wrong to us, not just suffering in general
  + A graceful endurance
* The coming of the Lord
  + Quickly points suffering believers to this certain truth – the Lord’s return
    - There is an end on the way – this suffering and the enduring of oppressors is not indefinite
    - Also a reminder that when He comes, justice is coming with.
      * “Do not repay evil for evil; vengeance is mine, says the Lord” Rom 12:19-21
      * Prov 20:22
* Illustration: the patience of the Farmer
  + The farmer waits patiently for the fruit to come. There’s much to endure til that time
    - Likewise, as we patiently endure those who wrong us, fruit will come of it
      * Rom 5:3-5
      * James 1:2-4
    - Remember, the seed’s suffering is what brings the growth. You also be patient.
* Don’t grumble against each other
  + This is a very human reaction. Especially when we view the person as the enemy. Instead, view them as an agent sent to help you to grow (even if it’s as manure 😉)
  + There is a danger in not suffering well/graciously.
    - Judged for our sin. We are responsible for our own actions
    - Lose some of our reward (2 John 8)
* Examples of suffering and patience
  + Prophets
  + Job
    - We have the benefit of looking back, seeing what they didn’t; therefore, can be encouraged to remember the Lord is faithful and working even when we don’t see it.
* The Lord is compassionate and merciful
  + “The Lord’s character is a great comfort in suffering”
  + Also, remember Jonah. Also 2 Peter 3:8-9