

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> 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.

- James 5:7-11 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

- Psalm 131 (*English Standard Version*)

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- Hebrews 12:7-11 (*English Standard Version*)

# Sermon Outline

## Count Patiently

James 5:7-11

*True Religion*

Brad Anderson

*Suffering trial can produce patience in those who wait for Jesus' return...*

(James 1:2-4, 12; 5:7a)

### What examples are offered as encouragement to those who suffer under trial?

Consider the farmer... (James 5:7b)

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Consider Jesus, the Judge at the door... (James 5:7-9)

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Consider the prophets... (James 5:10)

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Consider the steadfastness of Job... (James 5:11)

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### Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What do you think of as “the good ole days” in your life? Were they really that good?
- Instead of retaliation or vengeance, what does James urge the poor to do? Why?
- What lessons are provided to the Christian by the farmer? By the returning Judge? By the prophets? By Job?
- How does honesty without oath-taking (James 5:12) relate to perseverance without grumbling (James 5:7-11) and to health through prayer (James 5:13-18)?
- Have you ever gone through a period when you doubted God’s presence in the midst of hardship and suffering? Explain.