

Faith and Community

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, October 18, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ works itself out in life, especially during trials, causing believers to be humble before their sovereign God, prayerful in suffering, rejoicing in blessings, faithful in difficulties, transparent towards one another, living and serving in community, knowing that God uses each difficulty to prepare them for an eternal weight of glory that will be revealed to them when Jesus returns!

I. Faith and Wealth – Read James 5:1-6

- A. How would you describe the general context of the book of James? How is Acts 8:1 helpful in that regard? What's the specific context of James 5:1-6 in which James indicts rich individuals?
- B. Is James universally condemning wealth? How might 1 Timothy 6:10 help you answer that question? What do you think is the biggest issue when it comes to money and everyday life?
- C. What are some specific ways in which you would like to sacrificially give of your resources for the advancement of the Kingdom? What are some specifics to follow through with that desire?

II. Faith and Suffering – Read James 5:7-12

- A. What do you think it looks like to be patient in the midst of suffering? How are the farmer and the prophets and Job helpful examples of what it looks like to suffer well with great patience?
- B. James says, “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial” (1:12, 5:11). He also says the Lord is purposeful, compassionate, and merciful (v.11) to bring trials into our lives. How would you describe your typical response to bad news, normal everyday difficulties, and suffering?
- C. How would you like to grow in counting it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds? What needs to change in your thinking in order to have that immediate response? How are verses like Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 helpful in putting your suffering in perspective?

III. Faith and Community – Read James 5:13-20

- A. Who are the four groups of people that James is talking to here in these verses? What are James' commands to the four groups of people and how is prayer related to each of those commands?
- B. How are the elders and the church critical in helping anyone who is weak in faith? How can we have confidence that our prayers will save the one who is weak and the Lord will restore them?
- C. What are all the benefits of confessing our sins to one another? How do we view other believers who are open and honest about their struggles? Why do we have such a hard time confessing sin?
- D. What do you think it looks like to turn someone back from wandering from the truth? What kind of relationship do we need to have with that person for that to take place?