

**PRACTICAL FAITH**

A Letter from James



**Kingdom Humility - Pt.2**  
James 5:1-12

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INTRODUCTION

- Overarching theme: getting grace by living in humility
- The last section dealing with those in the churches who had economic prosperity and opportunities
- This section turns to those who weren't in such a position, but were at the lower end, and thus susceptible to economic abuse and being taken advantage of
- A "condemnation oracle" in the style of the prophets

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A PREDICTION TO THE ECONOMICALLY PROUD

- <sup>1</sup> Come now, you rich, weep and howl  
for the *miserias* that are coming upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted  
and your garments are moth-eaten.
- <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded,  
and their corrosion will be evidence against you  
and will eat your flesh like fire.
- You have laid up *treasure* (i.e. hoarded wealth)  
in the last days.

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<sup>4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields,  
 which you kept back by fraud,  
 are crying out against you,  
 and the cries of the harvesters  
 have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

<sup>5</sup> You have lived on the earth  
 in luxury and in self-indulgence.  
 You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

<sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered  
 the righteous person.  
 He *does not resist* you.

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A CALL TO HUMBLE PATIENCE

<sup>7</sup> Be *patient*, therefore, siblings,  
 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.

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A CALL TO RELATIONAL HUMILITY

<sup>9</sup> Do not *grumble against one another*, siblings,  
 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*, siblings,  
 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.

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HUMILITY IN TRUTHFUL SPEECH

12 But *above all*, my siblings,  
do not *swear*,  
either by heaven or by earth  
or by any other *oath*,  
but let your "yes" be yes  
and your "no" be no,  
so that you may not fall under  
condemnation.

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RESPONSE

- **Pride** breeds impatient pursuits of bringing judgement in the here and now by our own means, grumbling against one another, and using slight of speech to accomplish what we think is just
- **Kingdom humility** cultivates patience in unsolvable difficulty while anticipating the coming judgement in which God will set all things right
  - Patiently enduring difficulties caused by things unresolved, not grumbling in bitterness against our siblings
  - Speaking without nuances or qualifications that undermine the truth
- For our failures, we look to the sacrifice of Christ
- For our model, we look to the example of Christ who entrusted Himself to Him who is keeping accounts, is righteous, and who will resolve all ills on the Day of Judgment

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