



Mirror Moments—Accepting the challenge to look into the truth of God’s Word for the purpose of being devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful for God’s glory.

In the final chapter of James, the author continues to hold up the mirror of applied truth to our lives. As you reread James 5 in the quietness of your own devotional time, invite God’s Spirit to reveal where your life is in alignment with his will and where it is not.

Some “reflection” suggestions:

- A. James 5:1-6 What is God speaking to your heart about your relationship to what you own. How do you respond to others when it comes to the use of your personal “wealth”? Are you being fair and just with all those who provide you services?
- B. James 5:7-11 Are there areas of your life in which you’re struggling to rest in God’s timing to take care of injustice in your life? If so, what does the call to persevering patience mean to you? In what specific ways are you looking forward to God setting things right at the return of Jesus?
- C. James 5:12 How does God view the reliability of your word and actions? What might you need to confess before God in this area?
- D. James 5:13-18 What do you find most challenging about James’ counsel about prayer? If you find the part “praying for one another” to be problematic, why is that so? If you’re not already doing so, would you consider becoming part of a small prayer group or participating in the Wednesday Praise and Prayer time? Why not participate in the upcoming “Baptism of the Holy Spirit Seminar” by Dennis Smith that starts on October 27? You may wish to participate in the 40 Days of prayer initiative that will start on November 1.
- E. Is there someone in your life that God is asking you to “restore” from the error of his/her ways? If so, have you talked to God about how you should proceed? What might be a practical first step? (It might simply be picking up the phone and letting that person know that you care.)
- F. My most significant take away from this series in James has been . . .



A verse-by-verse study in James on becoming devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful in Christ

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church
Five-Part Sermon Series by Pastor Ron Schultz ♦ August 28; September 11 and 18; October 9 and 23, 2010
Visit www.hsdac.us to view past sermons in this series

**Notes for Today’s Message:
October 23, 2010--Part 5**

We’ve come to the fifth and final sermon in this series. Chapter 5 continues James’ practical counsel in living a godly life.

1. Review of some key points:

- Doctor’s coat.** Reminds us that the author’s approach and tone is much like a doctor who is dispensing life-saving advice.
- Jeans and suit.** James challenges compartmentalized religion. He calls us to live a godly life no matter if we’re facing a day dressed in jeans or suits.
- Coveralls.** James’s view of faith is down to earth. He challenges his audience to see that real faith rolls up its sleeves and meets the tangible needs of people. (1:27; 2:14-26; 3:13)
- Hospital isolation gown.** James challenges us to take seriously the polluting nature of the world around us. (1:27; 3:14-16)
- Tongue depressor.** This proverbs-like book has a lot of counsel about the power of our words. James is to the point: What’s in your heart and mind will flow out through your words. (1:19, 3:1-12)
- Machete.** God is a passionate lover who sent his son to die for his bride, the church. He has a right to be jealous for our unadulterated allegiance. God tolerates no other lovers. Therefore, we must cut out the worldliness that creeps into our lives for love of the world is both spiritual adultery and hatred toward God. (4:4-6)

2. James 5:1-6—warning to the rich not to oppress

Key word – v. 1: “rotted”– sepein This is a word that is associated with wealth that comes from agricultural crops such as wheat and corn.

–Matthew 6:19: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break through and steal.”

Key word – v. 4 “Lord Almighty/Lord of Hosts ” Robust word for God. Denotes God as having at his command powerful forces. The message is this: There will be a day of reckoning with the God of-all-power for those who abuse the powerless.

Workers were commonly “day laborers.” “The day Labourer [British spelling] in Palestine lived on the very verge of starvation. . . . And if the wage was withheld from him, even for a day, he and his family simply could not eat.” The Daily Study Bible Series: James, William Barclay. p. 118

3. James 5:7-9--patience in light of cosmic events

Key word – v. 7: “Lord’s Coming” parousia Possible meanings: 1) the second coming of Christ (1 Thess. 4:15). 2) The day of the Lord, or day of judgment (Joel 2:31; 3:12; Malachi 4:5). It’s interesting that some NT writers see in the second coming of Jesus a fulfillment of the OT “day of the Lord.”

4. James 5:10-11--Job’s example

Key word – v. “Job’s perseverance/patience of Job” hupomone This is not a passive, timid patience. Rather this is a grab-hold-and-hang-on kind of perseverance.

5. James 5:12--the importance of being trustworthy

In the Jewish world in the time of James, people had come up with elaborate ways of “crossing their fingers so-to-speak” in order to get out of the verbal promises they’d made. James is simply saying, back up what you promise with appropriate actions.

6. James 5:13-18--the power of prayer

Key word – v. 13 “sing songs” This word can denote both accompanied and a capella singing.

Key word – v. 15 “well” sozo It has both a religious connotation and a physical one. It means to restore, rescue, deliver.

5. James 5:19, 20--reclaiming ministry

“However, for James, truth is not so much orthodoxy but orthopraxis (truth that is lived).” Bible Amplifier--James, Pedrito U. Manyard-Reid, p. 220

Wrap Up: This final chapter picks up on previously introduced themes such as the challenge to live an integrated, congruent life for God and how we treat others really does matter to God. This final chapter adds several fresh perspectives, however. We’re to treat others justly in light of the cosmic reality that we will one day face the Lord Almighty who is both Judge and Harvester. Finally, James rounds out his practical counsel by introducing us to the power of prayer in everyday life and within the community of faith.