

# James Chapters 4:13-5:20



Thursday Morning Bible Class  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Wauwatosa, WI

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## Boasting about Tomorrow – 4:13-17

- 13 – Our life and endeavors are all conditional – we do not know what tomorrow will bring.
- 14 – James is not telling us not to plan, but to always remember that God will ultimately plan tomorrow.
- Life is but a mist – *chevel* – here briefly and then gone. (Ecclesiastes!)

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2

## Boasting about Tomorrow – 4:13-17

- 15 – Make your plans, but it is always “as the Lord wills.”
- 16 – Pursuing riches without God is prideful arrogance.
- 17 – The uncertainty of life should make us ready to recognize what is good and then do it.

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**Warning to Rich Oppressors – 5:1-6**

- 1 – A warning to the rich: Not wrong to be rich, but it can get in the way of dependency on God. Their dependance on wealth will fail them.
- 2-3 – Destruction of three kinds of wealth: food, garments and gold. The wealth will perish, and they will perish with it.

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**Warning to Rich Oppressors – 5:1-6**

- 4-6 – They had withheld the wages of their laborers. They lived indulgently without regard for others.
- The God of Hosts hears the cries of the poor, and will ultimately right every wrong and answer every injustice.

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**Patience in Suffering – 5:6-12**

- 7-8 – The life of the Christian is marked by patient endurance.
- Like the farmer who waits for the rain, the Christian waits for the harvest day which may seem far away.
- “Establish your hearts” – The coming of the Lord is at hand.

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**Patience in Suffering – 5:6-12**

- 9 – Don't grumble against one another. Don't let hardship make us unloving towards each other.
- 10-11 – The prophets are examples of patience in suffering.
- Job is an example. Remember what he received in the end.

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**Patience in Suffering – 5:6-12**

- 12 – "Do not swear" – Echoing the words of Jesus (Mt. 5:34-37), James urges them not to swear at all.
- The need to swear an oath betrays the weakness of one's word.

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**The Prayer of Faith – 5:13-20**

- 13-14 – The suffering should pray; the cheerful should sing psalms of praise, and the sick should call for the elders to pray over them.
- The elders should anoint the sick with oil, which was a common medical treatment. (Mark 6:13; Luke 10:34)

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**The Prayer of Faith – 5:13-20**

- **15-16 – The prayer of the faithful will save the sick. James is concerned about spiritual healing, not necessarily physical healing**
- **Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another. Mutual confession and prayer brings healing, both physically and spiritually.**

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**The Prayer of Faith – 5:13-20**

- **17-18 – Elijah is a model of earnest prayer.**
- **“Prayed earnestly” – literally, he “prayed with prayer.” An idiom for “he prayed fervently.”**
- **19-20 – If you turn a wanderer back to the faith you are doubly blessed – you and the one you rescued.**

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