

Remain

[Jas 5:9-11 ESV] 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 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.

I. Intro

- A. Baptism service coming up
- B. Summer is now upon us!
- C. After James...possibly a character study of Joseph
- D. Let me summarize before I teach:
 - 1. Don't grumble against your fellow believers
 - 2. Give grace
 - 3. Serve the mission
 - 4. It's going to be hard, and that is certainly for a reason
- E. We get this wrong in a lot of ways in the church today:
 - 1. We search for things we want and think we need before we ask God where He wants is to serve.
 - 2. We forget the most important part when considering how to be involved in a body of believers.

II. Text

A. Verse 9

- 1. Grumble:
 - a) Translated as groan or sigh
 - b) From the root that means "narrow"
 - c) The implications of grumbling or groaning against someone is to give them a narrow expectation
 - d) The challenge is to give them a wide/broad expectation
- 2. You are judging them in grumbling, don't take on the ungodly role of judge
- 3. Its not your job to take.

B. Verse 10

- 1. The prophets endured much:
- 2. Elijah endured severe drought for 3 1/2 years...for God's purpose
- 3. Jeremiah was arrested and beaten, put in stocks, kidnapped
- 4. Ezekiel endure pain and suffering at the directive of God:
- 5. Isaiah was told to walk naked for 3 years...and then martyred
- 6. Jonah...told to go somewhere he didn't want to go, found himself in a great fish and had to go anyway. Then got mad when the people responded to the message
- 7. Daniel went to the lions den
- 8. Joseph went to Egypt
- 9. ALL for God's purposes...so walk the path God has before you for God's purpose and for His glory

C. Verse 11

- 1. Job is mentioned and is an example.
- 2. Job lost everything yet remained faithful

III. Point

A. Remain in Right Relationship

- 1. Walking by faith in a body of believers is beautiful:
 - a) A beautiful reminder that its not about you, but about Him
 - b) A beautiful reminder that ministry is messy because we are messy
 - c) A beautiful reminder that grace needs to be lived and not just received
- 2. Remain in right relationship with others by not giving them a narrow expectation, but a broad one:

- a) We cannot expect everyone to do the same things we do, in the same way, and with the same conviction.
 - b) We need to hear people, love people, and humble ourselves before people.
 - 3. When you struggle to see that you have any room to grow or improve, and that everyone needs to catch up to you, they are not the problem
 - 4. Every person that devotes their life to Christ has ministry value.
 - 5. We remain in right relationship when we recognize this.
 - 6. Remaining in right relationship is work,
 - a) work on you
 - b) Work with others
 - B. Remain in Right Mindset
 - 1. Mindset matters, and staying there takes discipline.
 - 2. When you start to compromise your faith walk, your mindset is going to take a hit.
 - 3. When you sacrifice your moral stand and choose another path other than the Lord's path, you find yourself creating further difficulties for yourself.
 - 4. The Law of Holes:
 - a) The first law of holes, is an adage which states: "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." It is used as a metaphor, warning that when in an untenable position, it is best to stop making the situation worse.
 - b) The second law of holes is commonly known as: "When you stop digging, you are still in a hole."
 - 5. The only way to correct a shifted mindset is to saturate your life in the word of God and fellowship of the saints.
 - a) The solution for pollution is dilution, so pour more scripture into your flawed thinking
 - b) Find the peace of Christ and allow for healing.
 - 6. Our mindset in tough times should be to trust the Lord, and see it through all the way.
 - C. Remain in Right Commitment
 - 1. Commit your self to the Lord.
 - 2. Along the course of our lives we want God to come alongside us and direct our path, which is possible and good.
 - 3. But, many times we need to stop walking the wrong path and expecting God to bless our choices that were not made in consultation with Him.
 - 4. Follow God, through the thick and the thin, trusting Him to DIRECT YOUR PATHS.
 - 5. Like following a guide through a forest
 - a) The guide knows the way, you do not
 - b) The guide will show you where to step and where the danger is.
 - c) The guide will be your greatest resource.
 - d) You would never try to tell the guide to follow you and to make the path you are trailblazing to work out.
 - e) You would never find your way to the destination.
 - 6. Remain Steadfast!
 - a) If you remember back when we first started James, this was an introductory point.
 - b) [Jas 1:2-4 ESV] 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
 - c) We don't celebrate steadfastness enough because its not as exciting as other areas of our faith walk
 - d) But we are in it again: BE STEADY ON!
- IV. Close (Lord's Supper)