

Day Eleven

James 5:1-11

The Beliefs:

1. The Nature of God
2. The Nature of Truth
3. The Nature of Faith
4. The Nature of Wisdom
5. The Nature of Worship



The Behavior:

1. How we respond to people
2. How we respond to the future
3. **How we respond to wealth**
4. **How we respond to trials**
5. How we respond to commitments
6. How we respond to weakness
7. How we respond to sinful siblings

“1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 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 in the last days. 4 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. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”

I. How We Respond to _____ (5:1-6)

A. The Nature of God

1. God is to be our purpose and goal. The rich are being condemned here not because they had money, but because they worshipped themselves _____ their riches.
2. But if we offer our resources on God’s altar, He’s the one who keeps them from rotting, being eaten by moths, and corroding.
3. God is also the one who hears the cries of injustice.
4. Therefore — based on the nature of God — we should manage our resources to His honor and glory. If our possessions remain valuable or they corrode, it won’t matter because we’ll know that God is sovereign and it’s all _____ anyway. And since our lives are to be lived for Him, we

will never abuse others in an attempt to gain more riches. On the contrary, we will worship God by giving of our resources to love and care for others.

B. The Nature of Truth

1. The reality of material possessions is that they will one day be consumed. (vv. 2-3)
2. Truth is not fraudulent. (v. 4)
3. The Truth of God demands that we not hoard our possessions to benefit ourselves, but that we steward our possessions to benefit _____ on God's behalf. (vv.5-6).
4. Therefore — based on the nature of Truth — I must never steal, lie, cheat, defraud, or abuse people in order to build up earthly treasure. Instead, I should manage my earthly treasure to store up eternal treasure — _____ with people in Heaven. (Luke 16:1-9, "9 *And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.*")

C. The Nature of Faith

1. Faith is dead if it doesn't have works that prove its existence.
2. If we sacrifice our riches to ourselves, if we hoard our wealth, if we defraud others to become richer, if we abuse and condemn and murder so we can live in luxury, we are proving that we don't have _____.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of faith — I cannot be *consistently* stingy and greedy and abusive with my possessions and be a _____ of God.

D. The Nature of Wisdom

1. Wisdom is the practical outworking of faith.
2. Therefore — based on the nature of wisdom — it is wiser for me to steward my resources for God. It's wiser for me to _____ others with my possessions.

E. The Nature of Worship

1. True worship doesn't try to take God's jobs.
2. True worship won't consume for _____ what God wants given to others.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of worship — our supremest joy should be to wisely steward our resources for God, joyfully seeking to _____ others and forward God's glory in this earth.

*“7 Be **patient**, therefore, brothers, 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. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 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.”*

II. How We Respond to Trials (5:7-11)

A. The Nature of God

1. The Lord is _____! (vv. 7-9)
 - a) There’s much to be done.
 - b) And we want Him to find us doing right when He returns.
2. The Lord is in _____. (vv. 7, 9-11)
 - a) He’s the one Who causes the seeds to grow. (v. 7)
 - b) He the one Who sends the rain. (v. 7)
 - c) He’s the Judge. (v. 9)
 - d) He’s the one about Whom we should be talking. (v. 10)
 - e) His is the only purpose that matters. (v. 11)
3. The Lord _____ the steadfast. (v. 11)
4. The Lord is compassionate and merciful. (v. 11)
5. Therefore — based on the nature of God — we must believe that everything that happens in our lives flows from the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God of the universe Who has a purpose and _____.

B. The Nature of Truth

1. We must establish our hearts on the foundation of Truth. (v.8)
2. God’s Truth is that life only works when we’re _____. (v. 7-8)
3. God’s Truth is that life only works when we’re _____. (v. 9)
4. God’s Truth is that life only works when we’re _____. (v. 11)
5. Therefore — based on the nature of Truth — our lives should be characterized by consistent, patient, service . . . even in the middle of trials, testing, and persecution. If not, we’re living in a delusion. But we must first know the Truth before it can set us free, so we also need to have a lifestyle of delving into and living God’s Word.

C. The Nature of Faith

1. Faith is dead if it doesn’t have works that prove its existence.

2. If we're impatient, if we ground our life in lies, if we grumble against each other and judge each other, if we do not remain steadfast, then we're calling God a _____.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of faith — we can know how strong our relationship with God is based on how steadfast we are in the Truth.

D. The Nature of Wisdom

1. Wisdom is the practical outworking of faith.
2. Therefore — based on the nature of wisdom — we are _____ every time we're impatient. We're fools every time life the delusion of control. We're fools every time we complain and judge people. We're fools when we waiver and doubt.

E. The Nature of Worship

1. True worship offers every situation, experience, temptation, trial, and hardship to God's glory.
2. Therefore — based on the nature of worship — my first recourse in every moment of my life should be to see how _____ would have me respond.

LifeWork: Next week we plan to discuss how God wants us to respond to commitments and sinful siblings.

Take some time this week to read just three verses — James 5:12,19, and 20 — and see if you can determine how the doctrine we've learned in the book of James should naturally lead us to the kind of behavior he describes. Your past notes should be a helpful resource because we've already done this with four other responses.

Consider the nature of God, Truth, faith, wisdom, and worship and how those five realities should dictate how we act, speak, feel, think, and believe.