

# ***Marks from My Life***

James

Who – ‘Servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ’

Written For – ‘twelve tribes scattered’

- already followers of Jesus – Believers
- addressed as Brothers – 19 times

Why Written – experiencing difficulty

- testing, temptation, gossip, competition for offices in church, struggles with money, patience etc.
- major issue – what I believe and how I live

Gives a picture of measurements for maturity

- how I respond in life leaves a mark

# ***Marks From My Life***

## a) When We Are Wealthy

*“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence, you have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.” James 5:1-6*





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Judgment was coming because:

- a) They were guilty of hoarding wealth
  - three evidences of wealth – food, clothes, jewels
- b) They were cheating others for money
  - withholding wages meant starvation for some
- c) They were living in extravagance and excess
  - waste while others are in need
- d) They were persecuting others
  - wealth allowed them to take advantage of others

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Need to Remember:

- hoarding wealth – not of God
  - earthly riches will vanish, stuff is not important
- be fair with wages – workman worthy of his hire
  - be generous
- evaluate your lifestyle – is what matters evident?
- be merciful to others – do not use influence and position to hurt those opposed to you.

\* Maturity is revealed in how you handle Money \*

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## b) When We Are Wronged

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too be patient and stand firm, because the Lords coming is near. Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Jobs perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your yes be yes, and your No, no, or you will be condemned.” 5: 7-12*

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Interesting note:

- passage right after speaking of rich persecuting righteous – and seems connected

When Responding to Wrongs:

‘Be Patient’ – vs 7

- gk. *makros* – long way, far: *thumos* – passion, anger
- hence the idea – long time to get angry – longsuffer
- reflects love – ‘love is patient’
- impatience often blocks what God is trying to teach



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Stand Firm – Strengthen Your Hearts

- retreat into God's arms, not holy huddles or hurts

Don't Complain – 'grumble against each other'

- pressure needs a relief valve – usually those close
- God takes dissention seriously – be careful

Don't Swear – declare a vow by the sacred

- perspective often off in difficulty – safety measure
- our words should reflect truth always
- actions and words tied together

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## c) When We Are Afflicted

*“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops”*  
5:13-18

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- When we are suffering – Pray
  - literally – in distress, no immediate relief in sight
  - note – no promise of result – God knows
- When we are cheerful – Praise
- When we are Sick – Invite Elders – Trust God
  - initiative on the sick one
  - elders – discern, anoint and pray
  - three results – restoration, raising up, forgiveness
- When there is specific need – Pray
  - gk. – specific need and prayer

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## d) When We See Wandering

*“My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” 5:19-20*

### Mature Response to Those Wandering from Truth:

- relationship – not hurled criticism or rejection
- attitude – restoration with God – Gal. 6:1-3
- forgiveness and restoration - fellowship

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So What

Can See My Maturity in Christ by Marks in My Life:

1. When We Encounter Wealth
2. When We Are Wronged
3. When We Face Affliction
4. When We See Wandering

\* The everyday events of my life paint a picture of my maturity in Christ. I must evaluate adjust my actions to fit that which I strive to be in Christ. \*