

Faith that Finishes Well

James 5:1-20



1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.

2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

3 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.

4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,

20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

“The greatest distance
in the world is
the eighteen inches
between the head
and the heart.”

James has spent five chapters
helping us bridge that distance...





LIVING WITH THE FINISH LINE IN VIEW

Beware the Deception of Earthly Wealth

James

5:1-3

Is it in your income or
pension?
Your

investments?
Your

savings?
Or is it in

Christ?

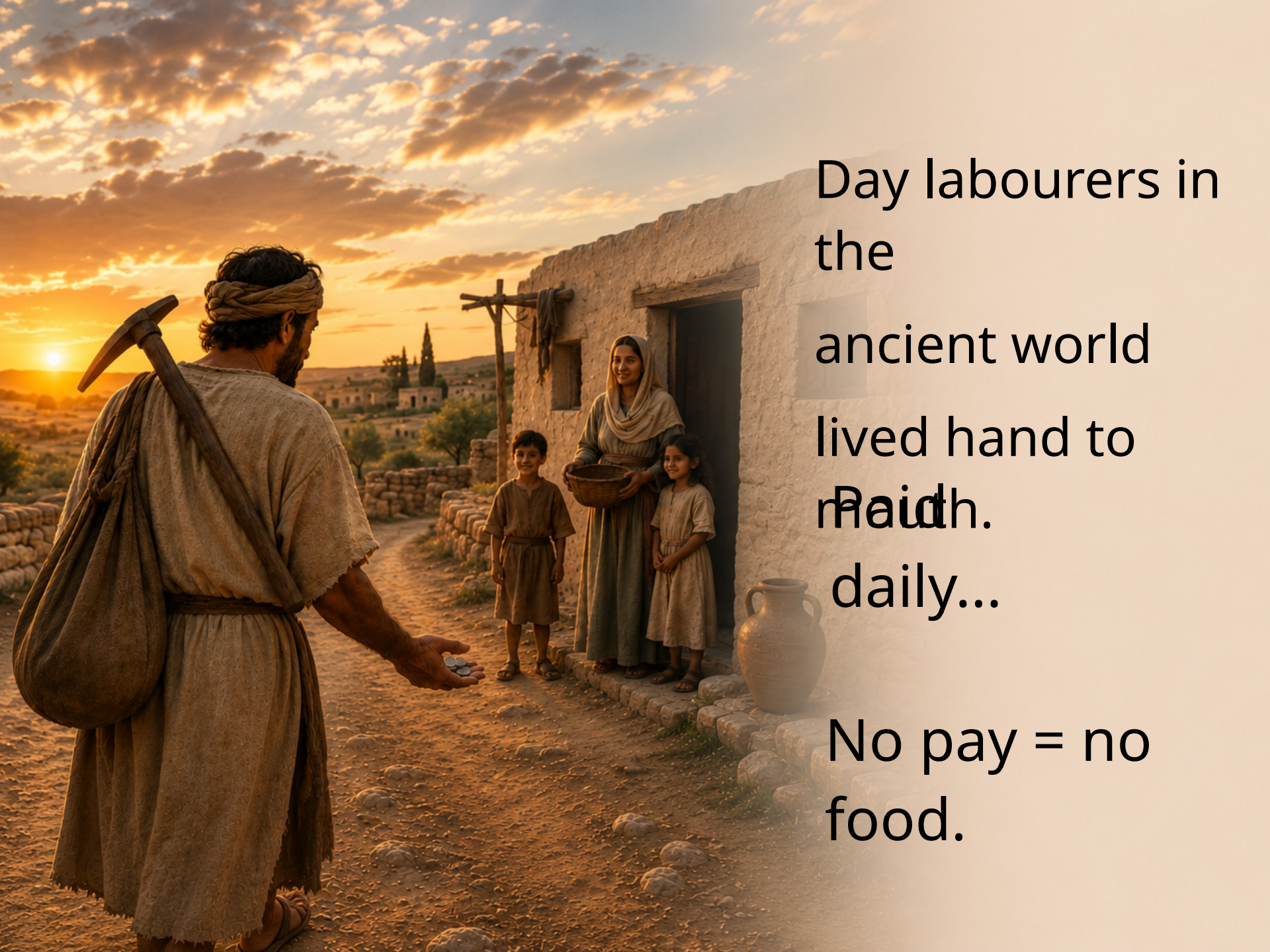
Are we trying to be self-
sufficient?

Part Two God Hears the Cries of the Oppressed

4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.



Day labourers in
the
ancient world
lived hand to
mouth.
daily...

No pay = no
food.

The background of the slide is a landscape photograph. A dirt path winds through a hilly, arid landscape towards a cross standing on a distant hill. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, orange-tinted clouds. In the foreground, there are some rocks and sparse vegetation. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Justice is fast disappearing here
But it will never be absent in
Heaven.

No
injustice
No exploitation is
goes forgotten.
unnoticed.
No cry of the oppressed falls
unheard.

A Word to the Heart

It speaks into every

generation

It speaks into business ethics.

It speaks into employment practices.

It speaks into how we treat people who depend on us.

It speaks into honesty when no one is watching.

Christianity is not Sunday-only religion.

The Danger of Self-Indulgence

Everything

ing
Everything

feels

ing
Everything
normal

feels

secure
permanent

ent.

But it is
not.



The Certain Justice of God

But

James

GO

assures

us:
God

shows
God will

es
act

And one day, every wrong will be put
right.

He is not
indifferent.
He is not

absent.
He is

ruling.

Part
3
**Patient Endurance Until the Lord
Comes** James 5:7–

7 Be patient, then,⁸⁾ brothers and sisters,
until the Lord's coming. See how the
farmer waits for the land to yield its
valuable crop, patiently waiting for the
autumn and spring rains.

8 You too, be patient and stand firm,
because the Lord's coming is near.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth...



Strengthen Your Hearts

Don't be emotionally shaken loose by circumstances.

Don't interpret God's silence as God's absence

Don't measure God's faithfulness by your feelings.

Anchor your heart in the promise that Christ is coming.



Don't Grumble Against One Another _____

James is
realistic.

Church

life is not

Families are not always
always

easy.

Relationships

are not

always

easy.

The Prophets and Job: Examples of Endurance

P
ar
t
v. 10-
11

They
suffered.
They were
rejected.
They were
persecuted.
Yet they
endured.



Part
Let Your Yes Be Yes
v.1

2

Be
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neopl
My Word is my
Be af
bond
integri
ty.

Part

7

A Church That Prays in Every Season prayer

James 5:13-
15

r:
Suffering?

Prayer
Cheerful?

Praise.
Sick?

prayer.

Call for



Suffering and Prayer

James does not say:

complain

isolate yourself

pretend it isn't

happening

and

saying
God always
hears.

God always

answers.

And God

is always



Joy and Worship

It is almost humorous how balanced James is.

He will not let us be gloomy saints or shallow optimists

He calls us to a life where every emotion is directed Godward

Sick and Needing Prayer v.1

gathered 4

church in

The elders pray in
action.

faith

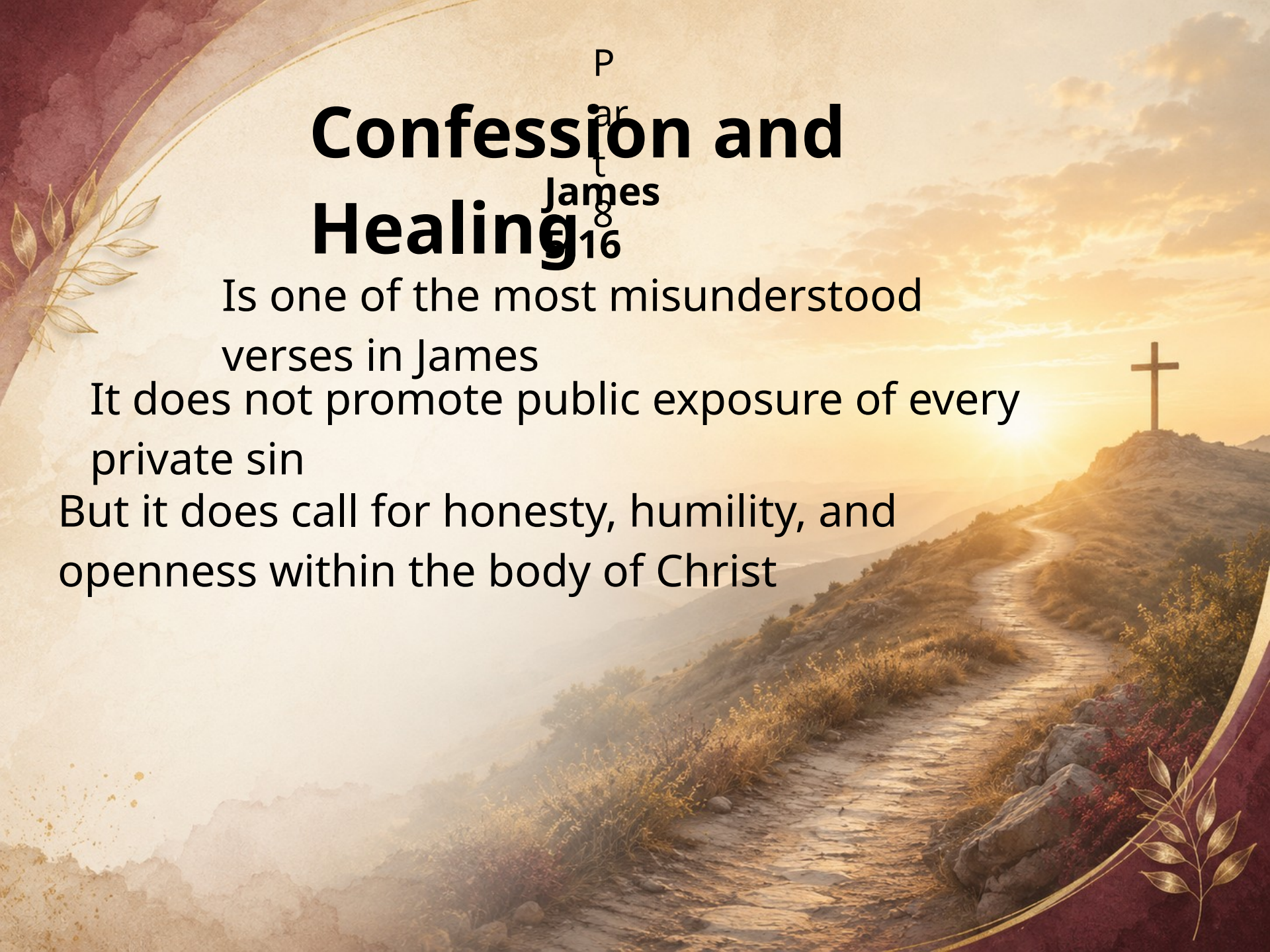
The sick person is not

isolated

The church comes to

them





P
ar
t
James
8
16

Confession and Healing

Is one of the most misunderstood
verses in James

It does not promote public exposure of every
private sin

But it does call for honesty, humility, and
openness within the body of Christ

The Power of

James 5:17–

Prayer

Elijah's

Example

He was

human

like us.

He prayed

fervently...

And

God
Rain
acted.

stopp
Rain
ed.

return
ed.

Not because Elijah was extraordinary—but
because God is.

Part 10

Restoring the Wandering Believer

James 5:19-20

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth...

James does not
say:

ignore
them
criticise
them
abandon
them



James
says:

**BRING THEM
BACK**

The Gospel at the Heart of James

James ends not with a blessing, but with a mission:

Rescue the wandering.

That is how the letter finishes.

Not with theory.

But with action.



Real Faith

Produces
perseveres in trials
resists temptation
controls the
tongue
submits to God
does not love the
world
endures suffering
prays in every



Finishing Well

We keep our eyes on the coming of the Lord.

Chapter 1: Faith is tested

Chapter 2: Faith works

Chapter 3: Faith speaks wisely

Chapter 4: Faith submits humbly

Chapter 5: Faith perseveres patiently

James began with scattered believers.

He ends with a gathered hope.

And all of it is lived

in the light of the coming of the Lord.

One day:

- prayer will become praise
- faith will become sight
- patience will no longer be needed
- suffering will end
- wandering will cease
- and Christ will appear in glory

Jesus said:

“Surely I am coming soon.”

And the church responds:

“Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

