

## James

### Lesson #16, Chapter 5 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. *Observation* is a necessary part of Bible study, yet can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 5 at the end of this lesson, so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 5. Now, *summarize* the contents of Chapter 5. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-11).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verse 12).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 13-18).
  - e. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 19-20).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the *main point* of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, *consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter*. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to *title* your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. Words that refer to *riches* occur frequently in verses 1-6. List what you find along with the verse references.
  
6. Look for any lists you can find in the chapter about *riches* or the *rich* and observations you may have discovered.
  
7. Make a list of what you learn about *patient/patience/endurance/waiting*. Be sure to include the verse references.

8. Now make a list of any *commands* that are given in this chapter. Be sure to cite where you found them.
  
9. The word *sin/sinner* and descriptions of those terms are key words in this chapter. List them along with any observations and their verse references.
  
10. List any references to *time* from this chapter. Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
11. List what you learn about *judge/judgment* from this chapter and the verse references.
  
12. What do you see about the word *pray/prayer* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

13. Write down *at least* one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## James Chapter 5

**1** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

**2** Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

**3** Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

**4** Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

**5** You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

**6** You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

**7** Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

**8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

**9** Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

**10** As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**11** We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

**12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

**13** Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

**19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,  
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.