

James 5:1 – 11

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 **5** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries
2 that are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted
3 and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver
4 have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence
5 against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have
6 laid up treasure in the last days. **4** Behold, the wages of
7 the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back
8 by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the
9 harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of
10 hosts. **5** You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-
11 indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of
12 slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the
13 righteous person. He does not resist you.

14 **7** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the
15 Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of
16 the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early
17 and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your
18 hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not
19 grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may
20 not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

21 **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take
22 the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

23 **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained
24 steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and
25 you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is
26 compassionate and merciful.

The shaded area is from our earlier discussion. Use it as a refresher on how James moves into this week's passage.

Observation (What does it say?):

Review the observation questions on the back page. What do you notice in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What questions come from your observations?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What in this passage stirs your heart?

For additional thought and discussion:

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

James 5_1-11 OIA.docx