James Lesson 7 (2013)

**THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND MERCY**

James 5:1-20

Key Verse: 5:11

**Open it:**

1. What are good things in life worth waiting for? What kinds of experience try your patience?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-6. In verses 1-6, James warns and rebukes the rich oppressors. What are their evil practices? Is being rich sinful? How should a Christian business owner or employer be different from others who do not follow Christ? How does God want us to handle money?
2. Read verses 7-9. What is the greatest hope of Christians in the last days? What do we need to do as we wait? (8) How does God use others to build patience in our lives? Why should we avoid grumbling against one another? What causes us to grumble against each other?
3. Read verses 10-11. Can you think of any prophets who demonstrated perseverance? (10-11; Heb. 11:1-12:1) How did Job endure suffering, and what does the final result show about God? (11b; Job 42:10-16)
4. Read verses 12-16. What is the problem with swearing? (12) What is the alternative to swearing? How should a Christian respond to the various situations of his life? (13-16) What does “confessing our sins to one another” mean? (Think about the relationship between the effectiveness of prayer and a healthy community that forgives.)
5. Read verses 17-20. How was Elijah a great warrior of prayer? (17-18; 1 Kings 17:1, 18:36-46) What is a Christian’s responsibility toward a fellow believer who has wandered away from the truth? What benefits from helping a person get back into following the truth? (20)

**Apply it:**

1. With what situation or problem can you ask God for help and patience? What situation or person will you pray for in faith this week?