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# 9 What Awaits

## **James 5:1-11**

**Y**ou have probably heard of the young man who cried out, "Lord, I want patience and I want it now!" James encourages us in this passage to wait on God, to be patient, and warns us against wanting it all now.

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1. How does our society encourage impatience?
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2. Read James 5:1-11. Into what two sections is this passage divided, and who is addressed in each?
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3. James declares that misery awaits rich people. What crimes have they committed (vv. 1-6)?

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4. How will their wealth testify against them in the last judgment?

Is James condemning all rich people? Explain.

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5. How is piling up riches the opposite of patience that waits in faith for God to provide?

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6. When are you tempted to hoard rather than to give and wait on God?

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7. Why do you think James begins the second section in verse 7 with, "Be patient"?

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8. James goes on to give three examples of patient people: a farmer, the prophets and Job. How is each an example of patience?

**9.** In what areas of your life are you impatient?

In what ways could you learn patience from the three examples James mentions?

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**10.** The Lord's coming provides a backdrop for James's word to the rich and to those who suffer. What different reactions would you expect each group to have to the prospect of the Lord's return (vv. 7-9)?

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**11.** How can Christ's return affect such practical matters as our use of wealth and emotional matters as our response to suffering?

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**12.** Thank God for the practical help James gives in becoming more patient. Ask God to help you apply his message to the areas in your life that need patience.