

The Outcome of the Lord's Dealings

James 5:7-11
October 15, 2017

Our focus this morning is a brief paragraph in the Epistle of James where he is encouraging his readers to patiently endure their sufferings. His goal was to help them understand that in spite of their present trials, God Himself was working to make them stronger, and that *the outcome of the Lord's dealings* would be positive.

The ultimate resolution for all suffering believers is the *coming of the Lord*, which James highlights prominently in this paragraph. But to encourage his readers in the interim, James offers three examples to remind them of God's ways: the farmer, the prophets, and Job, a highly revered Old Testament character. Each example encouraged them to look by faith to the ultimate *outcome of the Lord's dealings*.

1. The _____, hardworking farmer
 - We too are to be patient, and _____ our hearts.
 - We are to be careful that we not _____
_____ one another for the trials we experience.
2. The persecuted, yet _____ prophets
 - The suffering of the prophets is _____
_____.

3. Job experienced great loss and intense suffering, but gained a greater knowledge _____ in the process.
 - Job experienced unimaginable _____ and distress.
 - Job displayed an exemplary _____ in his trials.
 - Job persevered without _____ God's purpose.
 - Job's experience teaches us to trust God's _____, being confident of the final outcome of His dealings.

Recommended Reading:

Disappointment with God by Phillip Yancey

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. Describe the type of faith that is required when God's dealings with us are difficult and we have no explanation for them.
2. Identify some of the marks of God's discipline as He deals with His children. (see Hebrews 12:3-11)
3. How can we be sure God is not punishing or getting even with us when we are going through trials? (see Psalm 103:8-10)
4. What are the most helpful lessons we can gain from Job, the highly revered Old Testament character?
5. What can we do to remain focused on the outcome of the Lord's dealings when we are in the midst of a difficult trial?
6. What is the most helpful truth for you personally out of this message from James 5:7-11?