November 15, 2026
Sea Change Church
Storm Proof: A Study in James
S2E6: Homesick for Heaven
Pastor Harry Wilson

James 5:7-11

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits
for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the
late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at
hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged;
behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience,
brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider
those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and
merciful.

- Suffering has an expiration date and the tyranny of sin is not eternal. Christ's return initiates death's departure.

Key Word: *Maranatha*: 'Come O Lord' or 'Or Lord is coming'

- When we begin to pay attention to the unyielding prevalence of pain, then perhaps we will once again mutter, *Maranatha.*

> "No one has yet believed in God and the kingdom of heaven, no one has heard about his realm of the resurrected, and not been homesick from that hour, waiting and looking forward joyfully to being released from bodily existence" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- We have to be cautious that we don't become so comfortable here on earth, that we are never homesick for heaven.

Luke 12:36-38 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from
the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and
knocks. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.
Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and
he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and
finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

- Endurance is a symptom of blessing.

Practical Takeaways: 3 ways James calls us to live as we await His return:

1. Endure patiently
2. Give generously
3. Speak carefully

Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything in the worship or message that stood out to you on Sunday? Did you sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you in any way?
2. Is the return of Jesus something you think about and anticipate, or something you rarely consider? What feelings or thoughts does the idea of His return stir up in you?
3. How might a genuine anticipation of Jesus' return change the way you navigate seasons of pain, suffering, and uncertainty?
4. Of the three challenges James gives us, which is hardest for you right now: enduring patiently, giving generously, or speaking carefully?
5. Are there any lingering questions from the sermon or the passage that would be helpful to discuss together?