PATIENT TILL HE COMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 5:7-11

1	From the sermon Sunday, complete the following. In times of suffering
	Three tendencies to avoid:
	Three examples to follow:
	🏈 Two truths to embrace:
	Summary Statement of What God is Teaching Me:
2	An overarching theme of James is trials, and God is good to give us practical lifelines to hold on to as we encounter trials of various kinds. Think back in your past 6 months since we studied trials in James 1. Are there some serious trials you have encountered? How have you responded? Are you closer to God or further away from God?
3	There are some tendencies to avoid as we go through trials. What are these tendencies as described in James 5:7-11?
	Think of a case study for each of these tendencies, whether a Biblical instance or a personal experience.
4	In the sermon, we talked about the farmer's, the prophets' and Job's example in suffering. What about the farmer's example speaks to you? What about the prophets' example? What about Job's example?
5	In the dark of the night, there is a Light. Often the brightness of this light is snuffed out, so that it is difficult to believe He is there or that He cares. What snuffs out the light of Jesus in your darkest hours of suffering, oppression, or difficulty? For some, perhaps the call of particular sins snuff out His presence, for others, a wrong view of God is the culprit. James 5:9-11 actually speaks to both of these hindrances to the light of God. The surest way to see God is to confess your sins and to gaze at your Savior. Who is God and what does He promise He will do according to the passage?
	₩ How do these truths about God speak to you in your suffering?

6	The matter of control is addressed in the text. What can the farmer control? What can he not control?
	😡 Discuss how you can trust God with what you cannot control and how you can honor God with what you can control.
7	Job never knew what God's divine purpose was in his suffering, but he did know that God had divine purpose in his suffering. Job truly was the epitome of what a God-centered believer looks like under suffering.
	◆ Describe how a man-centered person goes through trials.
	Describe how a God-centered person goes through trials. Interact with the idea of God's sovereignty in suffering.
8	How does a firm grasp of God's coming justice change our view of our sufferings now?
	Why is it hard to think like this? Why is it liberating to do so?
	➡ How will you think and live differently today if you remember that "The Judge is at the door"? ■ PRAYER REQUEST
9	In suffering, God is working out patience and perseverance in a believer. Do these elements eliminate a Christian from protesting a wrong? Why or why not?
	Perhaps think through protesting evil versus protesting injustice. What is the difference?
	Also, consider how the world responds to either kind of protest by gospel-proclaiming Christians. Are you willing to be a martyr without being recognized as one?
10	The hope of the Lord's return should promote what in the heart and life of a true believer? Are you able to pray, "Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus"? If you are not, what are some reasons why and what needs to change in your thinking so that you can pray this prayer?