

**Harmony of the Gospels**

**Part 43**

**“Be Patient and Establish Your Hearts”**

**There was a murder trial, where the defense attorney was cross-examining a Coroner about the condition of the body. Here is what happened:**

**ATTORNEY:** Before you signed the death certificate, had you taken the pulse?

**CORONER:** No.

**ATTORNEY:** Did you listen to the heart?

**CORONER:** No.

**ATTORNEY:** Did you check for breathing?

**CORONER:** No.

**ATTORNEY:** So, when you signed the death certificate you weren't sure the man was dead, were you?

**CORONER:** Well, let me put it this way. **The man's brain was sitting in a jar on my desk.** But I guess it's possible he could be out there practicing law somewhere....

**Patience** is defined as the ability to endure waiting, delay, or provocation without becoming annoyed or upset, or to persevere calmly when faced with difficulties

**How many people here this morning know that you have a problem with Patience?**

- ☞ **When we are struggling** we want people to be patient with us, bear with us, encourage us, and forgive us when we make mistakes.
- ☞ **But when someone else is struggling** and making mistakes, we find it hard to be patient, bear with them, encourage and forgive them when they make mistakes.
- ☞ **That is because** we still live in bodies that are a part of the fall of mankind.
- ☞ **We are all still** inherently Self Centered.
- ☞ **It is only by the Power of the Holy Spirit** working through the Word of God in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ, and our self will to be **less selfish**, that we can change.

This issue of patience is one that is repeatedly taught in the Bible and one that is a very important part of the life of any person who claims to believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

**Try to imagine Jesus brother James, all of his life hearing that his older brother Jesus was the Son of God.**

- ☞ **Now some of us** have had a brother or sister who **thought they were God**, but that is not the same thing.

- ☞ **Jesus really is God** in human flesh, but James as Jesus brother, as any of us would be, was very skeptical that Jesus was the Creator of the Universe, **UNTIL**, Jesus rose from the dead.

### **John 7:3-5**

3 His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.

4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.”

5 For **even His brothers did not believe in Him**

It was after James had seen Jesus crucified, had seen saw Jesus risen from the dead, that all the years of patience that he had to exercised over His questions about his brother Jesus, was finally answered.

- ☞ **It was after** Jesus was raised that James was convinced that his brother was the Son of the Most High God.
- ☞ **So James knows** what it is to be patient and wait for the Lord to work and reveal the purposes for things in our life.

### **James 5**

7 Therefore **be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, **waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.**

8 **You also be patient. Establish your hearts,** for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**How many of you have ever planted a garden, either just a few plants or many?**

- ☞ **You go out** and remove the weeds, the rocks, and break up the soil.
- ☞ **Put some** fertilizer in it.
- ☞ **Plant the seeds** for the vegetables you want to grow...
- ☞ **Water** it.

And the next day, you go out and wholla! There it is, luscious tomatoes, Watermelons, Squash and Cucumbers...Right?

**No way, it takes weeks, or even months before you can see the fruit of what was planted.**

- ☞ **James uses** the illustration of planting and waiting for the plants to come up and then bear fruit or vegetables, as his example of what patience is all about.

**In Israel, when they planted their crops in the field, they depended upon the rains to water their crops.**

- ☞ **Israel has the** “*Early rains*” that come in **November** at just about the time the crops are planted, that softened and prepared the ground for the seed.
- ☞ **And then they have** “*Later rains*” that came in **April** when the crops were up and growing, rains that filled the plants with moisture and made them ready to harvest.

**If the later rains did not come, the crops would not ever mature and could not be harvested.**

### **Deuteronomy 11:13-20**

13 “And it shall be that **if you earnestly obey My commandments** which I command you today, **to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,**

14 **then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain,** that you may gather in your grain,

So in order for us to be able to see the fruit of the Lords work in our life and the lives of other believers, it is going to take a lot of Patience.

- ☞ **When the first seed** of a work that the Lord is going to do in our life begins, He sends the “*Early Rains*”.
- ☞ **Then as the growth begins** and continues, later on, there needs to be a “*Later Rain*”.
- ☞ **A time towards the end** of the growing process, where there is refreshment and nurturing, so that the seed can reach it’s full potential.

**Last Sunday we looked at the Parable of the Sower, where we learned about the 4 types of hearts that people can have.**

- ☞ **There was the Hard soil**, a heart that has been packed down because of sins we have done and sins done to us by other people, these can harden our heart.
- ☞ **There is the Rocky soil** that is represented by the trials that we all go through and the need to properly understand that trials are from the Lord for growth not for punishment, so we don’t get discouraged and give up too soon.
- ☞ **Then there is the Thorny soil** that is made up of all of the distractions that are in this world, that can choke off our relationship with Jesus.

Finally there is the Good soil that someone has taken the time to break up the hardened heart, by confession of sin and turning away from sin.

- ☞ **There once were Rocks** of trials in this heart, but this person has learned that God does love them and that the trials are a part of His love, so they bear the trials and look forward to the changes they will make in their life.
- ☞ **There once were Thorns in our life** that are distractions and things that are in this world that can pull us away from a simple loving relationship with Jesus, just reading His word every day, spending quiet time alone with the Lord, all these thorny distractions have been removed.

The Hardness broken up, the Rocks and Thorns removed, Now the Soil of our heart is ready to receive from the Lord, all that He is wanting to plant in our hearts.

**But don't forget, that this is a "Growing process", and it is a growing process that all of us are going through right now.**

- ⊕ **Remember that** not everyone is at the same place in their own growing process, that some others that are here are at.
- ⊕ **And that in order for their to be fruit**, there must be PATIENCE with the crop, and also THE LATER RAIN.

**We all need to be refreshed by others when we are growing and struggling, by sending later rain to the person when they are in their growing process.**

- ⊕ **The "Latter Rain"** is encouragement and patience with people **when you can see that they are struggling the most.**

### [1 Corinthians 14:26](#)

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, ... Let all things be done for **edification**

**The only words that are to come out of our mouth when we are together here at church or any other place, are words that encourage and build up.**

The problem is that sometimes we go out into the garden of other people's lives and we see don't see any growth there".

- ⊕ **Or there are Rocks**, or Thorns or a Hardened heart in this person's garden.
- ⊕ **And instead of being more patient**, we make judgments and comments that we should not make.

**James said:**

### [James 5](#)

7 Therefore **be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, **waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.**

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

The problem is that we are not very patient...

- ⊕ **We give up** way too soon!
- ⊕ **On ourselves.**
- ⊕ **On other people.**

Did you notice how long James said that we are to exercise our patience?

## **James 5**

7 Therefore **be patient**, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord**

We are to continue to be patient with each other and our own slow, personal growth, **“Until Jesus Returns for us”**.

We are kind of like our kids in the back seat of the car **on a long trip** asking our parents over and over... **“Are we there yet.. Are we there yet...”!**

**No, we are not there yet, NONE of us...**

For the past 10 months, Melinda and I have been adjusting to not only a new marriage, but also the knitting together of two hearts from two completely different cultures and backgrounds.

- ☞ **We have both** made many mistakes, but I feel that **I bear the great responsibility** because I am not only Melinda’s husband, but also her Pastor.
- ☞ **Sometimes** we can justify becoming angry because of the actions of other people or the way that they speak to us or treat us.
- ☞ **As Spiritual leaders** though, **we do not have the right** to respond in anger or impatience because we are held to a higher degree of accountability by Jesus.

## **James 3:1**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

**I had forgotten my responsibility to respond the way that Jesus would respond, even when provoked or mistreated.**

The problem for many of us is that even though we know what we are supposed to do, but oh how hard it is to perform it.

**Even pastors make a lot of mistakes, and I am not immune from error because I am still just a man.**

The important thing though, is that when we realize that we have made mistakes, to take those errors to the Lord and our husband or wife and be honest about them.

- ☞ **For the past week**, Melinda and I have spent everyday in counseling for our marriage and life together at the Senior Staff of Calvary Chapel.
- ☞ **The people** that came along side Melinda and I to help us were amazing in their love, their counsel and their wisdom towards both of us.

**We learned and were reminded of the role that we both have in our marriage and the responsibilities that the Lord holds us accountable to.**

- ☞ **As a result**, every issue, every area that we have struggled with the past 10 months was talked about and **resolved**.
- ☞ **We experienced** a healing in our marriage and the tools that we both need to spend the rest of our lives together in love, patience and ministry together.

The healing of our marriage for me is the highest priority of my life right now, and so I want to continue to take some steps to continue the healing and to demonstrate to Melinda how seriously I take our marriage and my love to her.

- ☞ **Having already taken one week** to work on and heal our marriage, I want to take an additional 2 weeks to continue to minister to my wife and show her how much I love her.
- ☞ **In many respects**, to also show to all of you, how much I love you and respect you.

So, for the next two Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, I will not be studying all week and teaching from the pulpit, but will spend all of that time with Melinda continuing with what has already begun.

- ☞ **We will both be in church** on Wednesday nights and on Sunday mornings, sitting here with all of you and enjoying the fellowship, the teaching and the worship.
- ☞ **I will still be available to pray** with any of you before or after service or to encourage you in any way that I can.
- ☞ **I just think that it is appropriate now** to make my marriage the priority and take an additional 2 weeks to complete that work.

I would hope that all of you would continue to come on Wednesday and Sunday to hear the teaching of the word of God by whoever is here to give us the word.

- ☞ **I hope that you will all continue** to love everyone here and continue to be a part of what the Lord is doing in our fellowship.

This is a tremendous time of growth for all of us, if we see it as and opportunity for growth.

**The message that I hope to send to all of the men and women of our church is that your marriage is the highest priority in your life.**

- ☞ **When your marriage is suffering**, then it is our duty **as men of God**, to stop everything else we are doing in our life, **make corrections to our behavior** by repentance, and a sincere desire to change, and then go and Minister to our wives with all of the love we can give them.

Today, **I also hope** that we can all join together as a family and experience a wonderful time of healing and a re uniting of our hearts together as a church.

☞ **We are known** as a church with great love, so I hope that today we can renew that love to each other.

For the next several minutes, I want us to just join together in a big circle and join our hands and hearts in **prayer, repentance, forgiveness, and love**, so that the Lord can heal our church and allow us to move on into all that He is desiring to do through us here in Winslow and our own lives.