



DATE: 25 August 2024 PM
TEXT: James 1:13-15
TITLE: Juncture

noun: a point of time made critical by circumstances

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

James 5:13-14

INTRODUCTION

- James was a practical and straightforward person...he handled life head-on and didn't tiptoe around difficult issues of life
- in tonight's passage, I want to clarify some things that have been misunderstood by different denominations
 - at the conclusion of the message, I think you will understand and appreciate my purpose
- so we begin by asking the question: at what **JUNCTURE** are you in life?

What season of life are you in?

- in **James 5:7-12**, he spoke about **PATIENCE**
 - life always brings about change, and its not always welcomed change
 - what we are to do while we are waiting
- in our text, James speaks about those seasons of change and what our immediate response is to be towards each of them

James wants us to know we have a God for all seasons...and each season should draw us closer to Him

James 4:8 Draw nigh unto God...

1. A SEASON OF PRESSURE

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray.

James was pragmatic...he meant what he said and did not try to soften his words

**afflicted = to endure hardness;
to suffer problems**

in this passage, he is not referring to those who are sick or unhealthy

rather, he's talking about those who are going through a trial in their life...facing problems that are overwhelming

2 Timothy 1:8

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 4:5

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

the reality of life is that we get overwhelmed from time to time:

job stress; family problems;
marriage strain; financial difficulties

Luke 21:34

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Mark 4:19

And the cares of this world...entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

and what is James' solution for these pressures?

LET HIM PRAY

that seems so simplistic, coming from a guy like James who takes everything so seriously

rather than complain...we ought to pray

rather than seek others...we ought to pray

rather than get angry at God...**PRAY**

Psalm 18:4-6

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

verses 16-19

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

2. A SEASON OF PLEASURE

Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

again, such a simple answer from a deep thinker like James...

when you are happy, what do you do?
buy something? go somewhere?

James' answer for a good time is to sing psalms

we are to sing psalms directed to God
that speak of our relationship with Him

2 Samuel 6:14

And David danced before the LORD
with all his might;

David wrote a majority of *Psalms*, and
those songs were based upon his
relationship with God

what God did

history of Israel

where he was at in a given moment

James said we were to sing songs about what God
has done for us so that we would be reminded of
that when the bad times came again

Psalm 95:1-2

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation. Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise
unto him with psalms.

Acts 16:25

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and
sang praises unto God: and the prisoners
heard them.

consider old stodgy, fastidious James...I have to
wonder if he ever just let loose and sang???

3. A SEASON OF PLAGUE

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

there are two particular misunderstandings that have come out of this passage:

the Catholic sacrament of *extreme unction*, whereby those who are near death are anointed with oil by a priest so as to have their sins forgiven

the charismatic practice of faith healing, whereby one with the 'gift of healing' is able to cure diseases

both are **WRONG** and not to be found anywhere in what James is teaching

James differentiates between the *afflicted* and the *sick* by the words he chose to use

sick = weak; feebleness caused by a physical ailment

those who are sick are commanded to call for the elders of the church...the leadership with spiritual experience

those elders are to do two things:

they are to pray over the one who is sick

they are to anoint them with oil

it is important to understand another word choice James made here

***aleipho* = to rub with oil**

***chrio* = to ceremonially anoint with oil**

James used the first word, a *medicinal* word

Psalm 23:5

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Isaiah 1:6

From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Luke 10:34 the Good Samaritan

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

James was not instructing the church to come together and perform some mystical rite

rather, he was instructing the church to trust the knowledge and information (science) at their disposal, but to pray for God's will to be done in the life of the sick person

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

nowhere in this verse does James guarantee healing for the sick person

the prayer of faith comes from the elders who are seeking God's will to be done

the answer to the prayer request is being saved...deliverance or preservation

a born-again believer is saved from sin and also saved from eternity without Christ

the ultimate goal of any believer should be a right fellowship with God