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St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
2100 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Austin, MN 55912-1749  
Pastor Ted Barthels  
Sermon preached on  
November 2, 2014  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Pentecost

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 30:15-19; Luke 10:17-22

Hymns: 26; 437; 413; 779:4 (798:1,4)

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon Text: James 5:7-11

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.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (NKJV)

This is the Word of God.

Sanctify us, oh Lord, through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

In Christ Jesus, dear fellow Redeemed:

INTRO: You're Trying My Patience!

The focus of our worship this morning is trust. We are to trust the Lord. But at times that is hard we may find ourselves feeling that

the Lord is not acting fast enough or as we would have Him act in our lives. We may feel our patience being tried.

We may say, “You’re trying my patience!” when we are talking to one of our children or some other subordinate who should be doing whatever it is that we have asked of them. It may be that we have given them a task to do, or it may be that we have encouraged a certain change in their behavior or habits. When we don’t see the action or change as promptly as we would like or expect we may with a measure of indignation declare “**You are trying my patience!**” Now we may think this toward those who are our superiors, but we wouldn’t often have the courage to say it for fear of repercussions that might follow. But then what about when it is just other people who try our patience, but the Lord? Sometimes it is the Lord who tries our patience, and it is the Lord who frustrates us, at least frustrating our plans or our desires for life. The Lord not only may be doing this intentionally but surely is trying our patience with deliberation that we might learn patience, that we might be found --

## **THEME: Waiting Patiently for the Lord.**

This is not only with our material desires but it may also be an important lesson for us in our spiritual desires as well. We need to learn to –

### **I. Wait Patiently for the Lord’s Coming.**

As children of God we live in a world that is brimming over with evil. We may even find ourselves comparing modern society with Sodom and Gomorrah and the blatant evil that caused the Lord to destroy those wicked cities. And then we hear the scoffers who mock the Lord and deny the truth of the Scriptures, and make fun of the poor gullible people that actually believe what the Bible says. We look for the day when the Lord will come in power and glory and destroy this present evil world and replace it all with a new heavens and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells. Even in this we might think that the Lord is trying our patience, but consider a moment how the sinners of this world are trying **His** patience.

The scoffers don't look for the world to come to an end. They even deny that the Lord is, much less that He possesses the power and authority to do anything to them, much less the rest of the world. In response to Jesus' promise that He is coming quickly, we pray with the Apostle John: "**Even so, come Lord Jesus**" (Revelation 22:20). The Apostle Peter puts all this into the proper, Spirit inspired perspective.

**2 Peter 3:3,8,9** scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." ... But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

It is the patience of the Lord with a sinful mankind that holds off the final judgment. It is His desire for repentance among mankind, that some might yet be saved, that causes the Lord to hold back the final judgment. The Father knows the day. He knows when that number of the elect will be complete, and then the Lord will come with all His holy angels, and He will call us to come to Him. Most of us will be called from our graves to the resurrection of the just, and some will be received directly to the glory which Christ has reserved for us in heaven. It is all about grace, His saving grace by which we also have received faith and life in His name. That grace is still at work in this world calling sinners to repentance, and so it is from the Lord that we learn patience as we wait for the Lord's coming.

In the meantime we are here in this life dealing with the trials of life, sometimes difficult trials indeed. We often find ourselves –

## **II. Waiting Patiently for the Lord's Deliverance.**

The hostility of the world may be subtle at times, but it is certainly getting more aggressive in American culture. To actually stand up for Jesus and His gospel may bring consequences that are not pleasant. Where it will all end up is hard to imagine. We know that

some pastors in other countries have been prosecuted under hate crime statutes for simply preaching the gospel truth that Jesus is the only way of salvation. We know that in Texas several pastors are under scrutiny for preaching against sins of homosexuality with the court subpoenaing their sermons in a rather transparent attempt to intimidate them into silence. Now also in Idaho and California Christian businessmen have suffered for refusing to help celebrate the sins of others. Jesus warned us that we should expect such hostility of the world, for even as He was hated by His adversaries so we also shall be despised by the world. So it is that from time to time we shall endure mockery, and at times we may find that we suffer some hurt personally in our lives, but let us learn patient endurance, not turning on one another, or thinking that something strange or unfair is happening to us for Jesus' sake. **“Behold the Judge is standing at the door!”** and what we are enduring for Christ's sake and the gospel's is not worthy of comparison to what the Lord endured for us in the greatness of His love for us. We read in Hebrews—

**Hebrews 12:3-4** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

We should learn patience, even as we learn the faithfulness of the Lord to watch over us and keep us under His loving care. Remember the assurances that are ours as we read in --

**Psalm 91:9-11** Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,  
10 No evil shall befall you,  
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;  
11 For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
To keep you in all your ways.

And then recall also that what lies in store for us in heaven is so much greater than anything that we can imagine. The glory that awaits us is so wonderful that all we endure now shall be forgotten in the joy and bliss of heaven. So Paul wrote to the Romans:

**Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

This is the hope and the promise of faith that the prophets held unto as they suffered shame and persecution for the sake of the Lord. So we are reminded of them in our text:

**James 5:10-11** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Patience is what the Lord would have us learn from the example of the prophets. They suffered for speaking the Word of the Lord, but though they were severely tried they endured in the faith looking for the promise to be fulfilled.

Patient endurance leads us to hold all the more tightly to what the Lord has given us in Christ Jesus. While we live in this life it is so easy for us to become attached to the material, the temporary that we exalt its importance. At the same time we may diminish the importance of the Lord's place in our lives. So the Lord allows the sufferings of this present time to come. But the lesson is not that the Lord is unconcerned about what is happening in our lives. Quite the contrary is true as we read once again from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews.

**Hebrews 12:6-7** For whom the Lord loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

James points us to Job, who was exemplary in his life of faith, and yet the Lord brought chastening into Job's life. Just think of how much Job suffered, the loss of his property and all his children and then his own health. Grief and pain afflicted him, and in all that the Lord did forsake Him. Job's wife told him to give up on God. His friends concluded that Job must have done some terrible sin and told him things that were not true. Job himself became impatient

with the Lord. However, Job learned from the chastening of the Lord, and he grew in his knowledge of God. God knew the end He intended, and Job was richly blessed by the Lord in all these things.

So we are to learn from these examples of the believers who have gone before us. We are to learn of the faithfulness of our God, and wait patiently for the Lord to deliver us from every evil, from every hurt that comes our way. He cares for you and when you call upon His name He will hear and He will deliver. The world may see us as being beaten down and defeated, and may even call us pathetic. Don't believe it! Not for a moment! What Paul concludes at the end of Romans eight is the truth of the matter.

**Romans 8:37-39** “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**CONCLUSION: Well the Lord is trying my patience!** And that is what's best for me. He does it in love. He does it that I might grow in my faith. He does it that we all might learn endurance and hope, and cling all the tighter to a faithful and loving Father in heaven who gave His only begotten Son that we might have life in His name. He does it that we might turn to His Holy Word and read of the greatness of His love in days gone by as well as in times to come, that the Spirit of our God might lead us always to wait patiently for the Lord.

**AMEN.**

And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.