

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 5:7-11

Lesson #22

Patience

08/01/2021

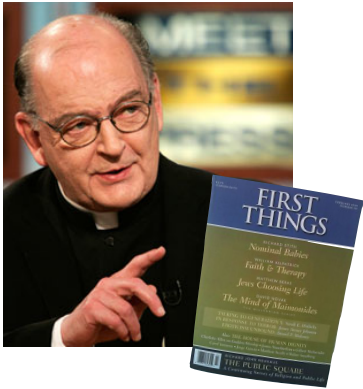
If you wish to understand “redemption”
from sin, look to

the Word of the Cross.

If you wish to understand “reform”
of society, look to

the Way of the Cross.

1



Richard John
Neuhaus

“Idolatry is
trying to bring in
God’s Kingdom
before its time
and without its
King.”

**It is common with
both liberals and
conservatives.**

2

**Evangelical Christians
want the kingdom**

**but are often
committed to bring it
about through the ways
of this world as opposed
to the Way of the Cross.**

3

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

This is what we
should know

Life’s trials
contain
hidden
blessings.

1:1-18

Transition verse

**James
1:19**

This is what we should do

“quick to hear”
“Listen up”

1:19-2:13

“slow to speak”
“Shut up”

2:14-3:12

“slow to anger”
“Cool it”

3:13-5:20

The Way of the Cross calls for
Patient Endurance.

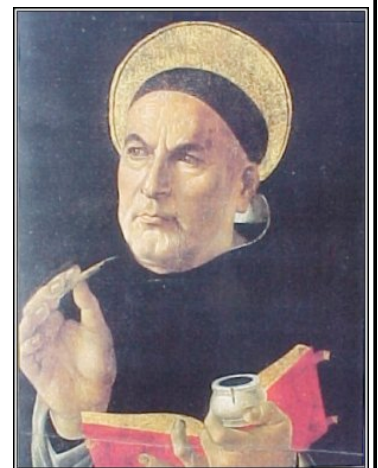
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“There are two serious
arguments against the
existence of the
Christian God.”

The challenge of
science

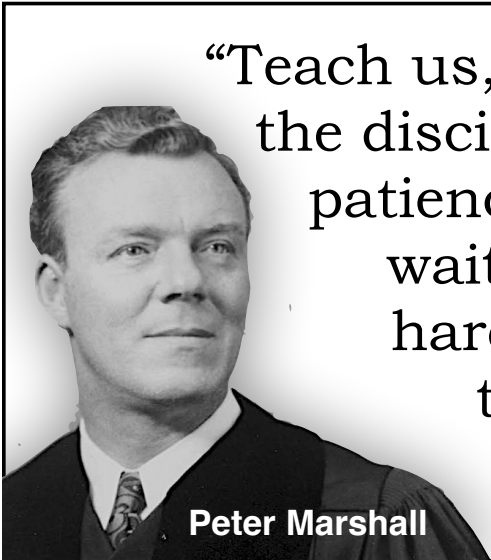
The challenge of
suffering

A third might be:
The challenge of
waiting



Thomas Aquinas

5



“Teach us, O Lord,
the disciplines of
patience, for to
wait is often
harder than
to work.”

Peter Marshall

6

James 5


“7 Therefore be **patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being **patient** about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be **patient**; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and **patience**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who **endured**. You have heard of the **endurance** of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”

7

James 5

“7 Therefore”



- **CONTEXT** is critical to understanding of any text. If this text is the answer, what is the question?
- VS. 1-6 address social injustice.
- VS. 6 notes the response of the poor “they do not resist the rich”.



Is this a model
for us of the **WAY
OF THE CROSS?**

8

If you wish to understand “kingdom” social reform
look to the Way of the Cross.

	
Law (O.T.) (outside - in)	Love (N.T.) (inside - out)
focus on social systems	focus on spiritual status
constrains the heartless	changes the heart

9

John 15:18

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.”

Like Jesus, we should expect
to suffer as he did.

Philippines 2:5-6

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,**”

Like Jesus, we are called to
respond as he did.

10

The Way of the Cross for the poor

Isaiah 53:7

“He was oppressed and afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; **like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.**”

James 5:6

“You have condemned and put to death the **righteous** man; **he does not resist you.**”

Like Jesus, “the righteous” (poor)
does not “resist”.

11

The Way of the Cross *for the rich*

Philippians 2

6 (Jesus) who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, 7 but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant,”

James 1:10

“and the **rich man** is to glory in his **humiliation**, because like flowering grass he will pass away.”

Like Jesus, “the righteous” (rich)
does not “retain”.

12

James 5

“7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The **farmer** waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

- Life demands patience of **EVERYONE**.
- **PROCESS** will call for patience.
 - **CAUSE & EFFECT** tutors us to appreciate creation and providence.
 - **MORAL VIRTUES** (like courage, temperance, wisdom, etc.) are linked to patience.
 - **COMMUNITY** is developed as we learn to cooperate, which involves respect and waiting.

13

The early church voluntarily walked the Way of the Cross.

Acts 2

“44 And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions, and were **sharing** them with all, as anyone might have need.”

2 Corinthians 8

“14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be **equality**; 15 as it is written, “**He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack.**”

14

James 5

“7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The **farmer** waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

“Biblically, waiting is not just something we have to do until we get what we want.

Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be.”



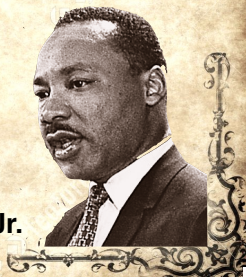
John Ortberg

15

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

Love Waits

Martin Luther King, Jr.



16

Love Waits

Love is

patient
kind

a response to

not jealous
does not brag
is not arrogant
is not unbecoming
not self seeking
is not provoked
holds no grudges
does not rejoice
rejoices in the truth
bears all things
believes & hopes all things
endures all things

trials
insults
success of others
success of self
power & authority
freedom
competition
confrontation
injustice
failure of others
gossip & slander
losses
discouragement
delayed hopes

1 Cor. 13:4-7

17

James 5

“8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not **complain, brethren, against one another**, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”

- **Patience under delayed gratification can strengthen THE HEART.**
 - It will build hope for **CHRIST'S RETURN**.
 - It will nurture **FAITH IN GOD (not this world)**.
- **Patience under delayed gratification can still SOCIAL CONFLICT.**
 - We tire of hearing about **what we should fear and who we should blame**.

18

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it **abundantly**.”

- **Waiting forces us to ask - What is the essence of LIFE?**
- **The promised “blessings” are exemplified in the lives of Jesus and his disciples**
 - They are not **CIRCUMSTANTIAL** or **MATERIAL**.
 - They are not without **SUFFERING**.
 - They are **EXPERIENTIAL**.
 - They are **SPIRITUAL (peace, love, joy)**.

19

James 5

“10 As an example, brethren, of **suffering and patience**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

- **The O.T. prophets proclaimed the PROMISES OF GOD.**
 - They did not always **EXPERIENCE THEM IN THIS LIFE**.
 - Their faith **WAS NOT SHAKEN**.
- **Waiting will involve SUFFERING and ENDURANCE.**
 - **JESUS** is our example.
 - This is the **WAY OF THE CROSS**.

20

Romans 8

“22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly** for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For **in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope**; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **with perseverance we wait eagerly for it**.”

21

James 5

“11 We count those blessed who **endured**. You have heard of the **endurance** of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.”

- **Blessing comes through ENDURANCE.**
- **JOB'S expectations were crushed.**
 - He never knew **WHY**.
 - He had no **SOCIAL SUPPORT**.
 - In this life, he was **REWARDED**.

NOTE: Ultimately, Job died and lost the things of this world “for good” - **for something REAL GOOD**.

22

For Christians
Everything is
O.K. in the end.

If it's not O.K.
it's not the end.

23

Observations

- James starts and ends his letter with addressing Hard Times in this world. **Expect to bear a cross in following Christ.**
- His hope comes not in this age but at Christ's return. **Don't expect heaven on this earth.**
- He anticipates that disciples might turn on one another if they are not patient. **Patience must be expressed to one another as to God.**



- He points to O.T. saints who waited patiently even though the promises did not come in their lifetime. **Know that you are not alone in waiting.**

24

This passage has implications for:

- Our everyday life, especially if we follow Christ. **Expect to bear a cross.**
- Social justice, especially systemic change. **Expect to wait, endure, and encourage.**
- Our hope, especially with respect to fullness of life. **Expect to miss out on much in this age but not in the next.**
- The development and demonstration of our character. **Expect to grow as we wait.**



25

Hebrews 11

"36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 **And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,** 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect."

26

Hebrews 12

"1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

27

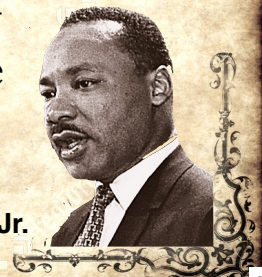
Once we understand the Cross
two things become clearer.

1. What stands between us and peace with God is not our sin
so much as faith in Jesus.
2. What stands between us and reform is not political impotence
so much as Jesus' "Way of the Cross".

28

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



29