

**Let Every Man Be Slow to Wrath: Part 2 (James 4:11–5:6)**

Water of Life

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**REVIEW: Swift to Hear (1:21–2:26), Slow to Speak (3:1-18); Slow to Wrath (4:1–5:6)**

**NEW EXPOSITION:**

**4:11–12 (Anger-based) judgment changes us from humble doers of the Royal Law into its judges**

**4:11 Believers who (because of anger) speak evil of one another judge the law, rather than do it**

Doing the royal law (James 2:8)

Royal law = law of the king; as Messiah, Jesus will reign

Christ states the royal law (Mark 12:31)

The Old Testament context of the royal law (Leviticus 19:17-18)

Expanding the Old Testament context of the royal law (Leviticus 19:16)

**4:12 Slandering one another doesn't do the law, but judges it; only one Lawgiver may save/destroy**

Relation of 4:12 to 4:11 shows this judgment is not eternal

Usages of *save* demonstrate this (1:21; 2:14; 5:14-15, 19-20)

**4:13–5:6 Anger-based self-promotion leads to boasting and to fraud**

Two sections:

Part 1: 4:13-17;

Part 2: 5:1-6

**Part 1: Their boastfulness (4:13-17)**

**4:13f Do not disregard mortality & transience by viewing plans as certain, because we are mortal**

**4:15 Our plans are subject to the Lord's veto**

**4:16 We should not boast in their arrogant predictions, because it is evil**

**4:17 We are accountable for what we do, not what we plan; so avoidance of doing good is sin**

**Part 2: Their fraudulent ways (5:1-6)**

**5:1 (Fraudulently) enriched believers should lament their future plight at the Bēma**

The repeated introduction of 4:13 signals that this is part 2

**5:2f (Fraudulently) enriched believers should lament facing the *Bēma* which will reverse fortunes**

**5:4 The Lord of Armies knows how they defrauded those whose labors have enriched them**

Here, the withholding from the paycheck was 100% (they agreed to a pay rate, but did not pay)

**5:5 These fraudulently enriched believers fattened selves for slaughter (at *Bēma*, not lake of fire)**

**5:6a Their theft of workers' wages resulted in deaths; their theft made them murderers**

**5:6b God resists these murderous thieves**

The NKJ translation is typical of English translations. The Greek can be translated as the NKJ has it, but a different punctuation for those words makes better sense contextually.

NKJ:                    he [the unpaid laborer] does not resist you.

My translation: Does not He [God] oppose you? (Cf. the reference to the *Bēma* in 5:9)

**CONCLUSION**