

God's Redemptive Reversal

James 5:1-6

July 17, 2022 | John Henschen, Lay Elder

James 5:1-6 | 1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

BIG IDEA: God's Way of living leads to true and everlasting blessing.

I. The World's Way

A. James' Oracle

James 5:1 | Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

1. Oracle against Babylon

Isaiah 13:6 | Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

2. Oracle against Moab

Isaiah 15:1-3 | 1 An oracle concerning Moab. Because Ar of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone; because Kir of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone. 2 He has gone up to the temple, and to Dibon, to the high places to weep; over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. On every head is baldness; every beard is shorn; 3 in the streets they wear sackcloth; on the housetops and in the squares everyone wails and melts in tears.

3. Oracle against Israel

Amos 8:3 | The songs of the temple shall become wailing in that day, declares the Lord God. "So many dead bodies!" "They are thrown everywhere!" "Silence!"

B. Sins of the Wealthy

James 5:2-6 | 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

1. Hoarding

James 5:2-3 | 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

2. Fraud

James 5:4 | 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

3. Luxury and Self Indulgence

James 5:5 | 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

4. Oppression

James 5:6 | 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

II. Redemptive Reversal

A. Already

B. Not Yet

III. God's Way

A. Living in Community

B. Living Generously

C. Living in Moderation

Benediction

2 Corinthians 8:9 | For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.