

# Blue Jean Christianity

Study in the Book of James

# “James review”

- Chapter 1- Faith in Trials, Temptation and Perseverance
- Chapter 2- Faith and treatment of Others and Faith Evidenced by Life Change
- Chapter 3- Faith and the Tongue, and Faith brings “Wisdom from above”; which is Christ-Like in Character
- Chapter 4- Faith brings- Humility, selflessness, brokenness, graciousness  
4:11-17 A practical everyday dependence



# “Warning to the Selfish Rich”

The Snare of Riches  
(James 5:1-6)

# Who is this passage written to

- This harsh passage does not appear to be directed at the “scattered believing Jewish Christians”; but at those taking advantage of them.
  - These scattered ones had little to nothing (James 1:1-2)
  - It was the rich, hauling them into court (2:6)
  - Other harsh rebukes were to believers who had the Holy Spirit (4:5)
  - The warning seems to refer to eternal condemnation 5:3
  - The conclusion, is directing believers to be patient and be encouraged that the Lord’s return is near (5:7-8)
- There are still Lessons in this warning for all of us.

# What is this passage About

- This passage is a warning about the dangers of wealth (5:1-6).
  - Wrong attitudes toward wealth (v.1)
  - The potential waste of wealth (v.1-3)
  - Wrong, abusive ways of gaining wealth (v.4)
  - Selfish use of wealth (v.5)
  - Contempt for those in need (v.6)

# The Lord talked a lot about Money

- Don't trust in it; Don't make it your life's pursuit; Use it for Him/Eternity as good steward

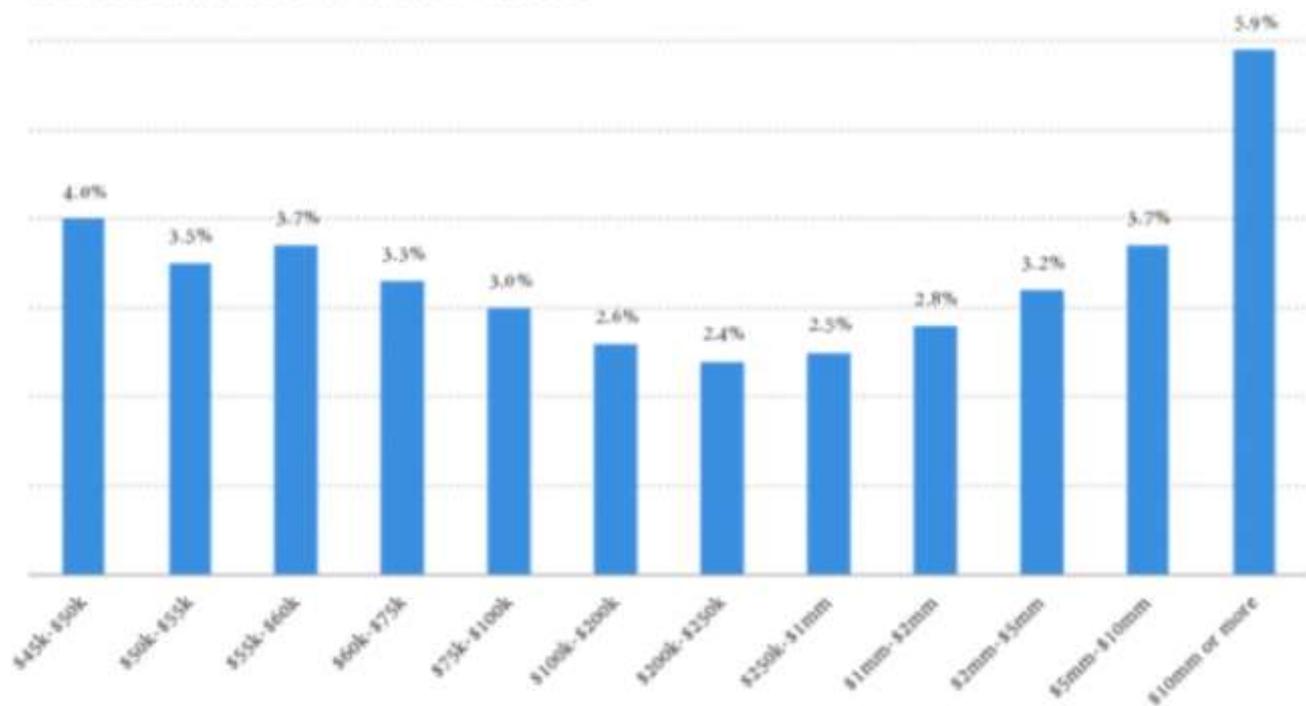
“Woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation” Luke 6:24

- It is harder for a rich man to enter heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (Lk.18:18)
- It is not sinful or wrong to be rich; but dangerous
  - Temptations that come with it
  - Wrong uses of it
  - Fear and anxiety of hanging on to it
- Many had wealth: Abraham, David, Solomon, Mary, Martha and Lazarus; Zacchaeus-returned

# The Lord talked a lot about Money

- Many had wealth
  - Abraham, David, Solomon
  - Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Mary anointed Jesus Jn.12:3)
  - Zacchaeus- returned his ill gotten gain
- *“From everyone who has been given much, shall much be required”* Luke 12:48
- Being good stewards of God’s blessing is in turn blessed by the Lord.
- But real statistics reveal the opposite.

## Total Contributions as a % of AGI



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics; 2013 Facts & Figures

# What is this passage About

- Wrong attitudes toward wealth (v.1)
  - Don't "love" it (1Tim. 6)
  - Don't make money your life's pursuit
- The potential waste of wealth (v.1-3).
  - Rot is food unused; Moth-eaten are clothes unworn; and rust tarnish is money stored away
- Wrong, abusive ways of gaining wealth.
- Selfish use of wealth . . . Hoarding
- Contempt for those in need
- Instead: Heed God's instructions to give it away (1Tim 6:17-19)