

JAMES

Money

Matthew 19:16 (NIV) “Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’”

Matthew 19:17_b (NIV) “Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.’”

Matthew 19:18-19 (NIV) “‘Which ones?’ he inquired. Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 19:20 (NIV) “‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said. ‘What do I still lack?’”

Matthew 19:21-22 (NIV) “Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ ²²When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.”

Ephesians 2:8-9_a (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works.”

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NIV) “Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them ... this is a gift of God.”

Luke 18:24_b (NIV) “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

Don't let your stuff get in the way of loving Jesus:

1. Reflect on the shortness of life and the sovereignty of God.

James 4:13 (NIV) “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’”

James 4:14 (NIV) “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

James 4:15-16 (NIV) “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’ ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your **arrogant schemes**. All such boasting is evil.”

2. Find opportunities to show generosity instead of hoarding money.

James 4:17 (NIV) “If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

James 5:1-3 (NIV) “Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have **hoarded wealth** in the last days.”

Luke 12:20 (NIV) “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.’”

3. Don't get ahead at the expense of others.

James 5:4 (NIV) “Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.”

James 5:6 (NIV) “You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.”

4. Enjoy what God gives you but reject a lifestyle of self-indulgence.

James 5:5 (NIV) “You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.”

1 Timothy 6:11^b-12^a (NLT) “Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.
¹²Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you ...”

A good wife: Proverbs 19:14.