



Message Notes & Life Group Study Guide  
November 3-4, 2018  
Life Hacks: Handling Your Wealth  
Dr. Kurt Bjorklund

MESSAGE NOTES:

James 5:1-6

James Challenges Our:

1. Beliefs about wealth (James 1-3a)

a. Status

*"Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes."* James 2

b. Security

*"Your gold and silver are corroded."* James 3a

2. Behavior around wealth (James 3b-6)

a. Hoarding

*"You have hoarded wealth..."* James 3b

b. Cheating

*"...you have failed to pay the workers..."* James 4a

c. Indulging

*"You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence."* James 5

d. Injustice

*"You have condemned and murdered the innocent..."* James 6

## STUDY GUIDE:

**Reference:** Open in prayer and read James 5:1-6.

**Review:** What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

### Reflect:

1. Read James 5:1 which starts, "Come now, you *rich*..."
  - a. Do you see yourself in the category of "rich?" Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How does this impact the way you interpret verses 1-6?

This is the second time James addresses wealth. In James 2:1-5, he speaks out against treating the rich with special privilege. What connections can you make between that passage and James 5:1-6?

Consider the descriptive language used in verses 2-3. What do you think is meant by "corroded" gold and silver? Or that the corrosion will be evidence against the rich, and that it will eat their flesh?

How do we keep wealth from corrupting us?

Verse 4 speaks out against oppressive business practices. Where do you see this happening in our society? How can we, as followers of Jesus, work to bring justice to systematic oppression? If you are *not* a believer, is there a difference in the ways you approach oppression and injustice?

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the talents where he illustrates the point that we are simply stewards of God's resources. Everything we have, including our money, is actually God's and we are just caretakers for Him. If you had to reconcile accounts with God today how do you think you would fare? Have you utilized His resources well?

**Respond/Reinforce:** Look at your finances this week. If you are married, make sure you include your spouse. If you are single, maybe include a friend or someone from your Life Group you trust. What does the way you manage your wealth reveal about your heart?