

James: Faith at Work

"Money, Misery, & Mistreatment"

James 5:1-6

Sunday, October 4th, 2026

~ As we kick off chapter 5 hoping for a bit of a lighter tone, we don't find that. The tone of harsh rebuke that we saw in chapter 4 doesn't die down just yet, it actually picks up.

> Who is James Talking To?

Hint = It's not Christians ... notice James 1:2 - "Count it all joy my brothers." James 1:16 - "Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers..." James 2:1 - "My brothers," Vs. 14 - "What good is it my brothers?" James 3:1 & 3:12 - "My brothers..."
BUT no usage of the word "brothers" in the first part of chapter 5!

~ There is no personal language used, and there is no distinct call to repentance. Just a harsh warning for their sin and the reminder that judgment is coming!

> Three Reasons James Writes to Unbelievers:

a) A _____ of the wickedness that once filled the lives of the believers.

b) A _____ warning to anyone who is rich and misuses the gift God has given them.

c) An _____ warning to believers who may be considered rich.

I) A Warning to _____ (v. 1-2)

~ The warning = wealth that is the issue, rather the issue is what is done or not done with that wealth.

** Breaking Down 1 Timothy 6:10 **

~ Can I suggest what Paul is saying here is that the heart that loves money, the heart that sees its value and the power that it promises them, that kind of heart is a heart that is rooted in a lot of the evils and wickedness we see on display in the world around us.

"The reason God gives us a cross is because he wants us to have more joy than our sinful pleasures could ever deliver to us."

- John Piper

II) A Plea to Avoid _____ (v. 2-3)

~ Jesus' Words on money, wealth, & earthly treasures

* Luke 6:24-25

* Matthew 6:19-21

III) A Rebuke Against Their _____ (v. 4)

~ God is concerned for the poor and the oppressed, as should we be as well

~ C. Bloomberg notes that in this day & time, in the "Jewish world, to deprive a person of their support was the same as murdering them."

IV) Advice for Those Who Live in _____ (v. 5-6)

"God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. for everything created by God is good..."

- 1 Timothy 4:3-4

> We should be a people who pray and seek to live like the words found in *Prov. 30:8-9*.

> As we wrap up this warning about money & wealth; Remember Paul and his radical change ... perhaps the words of Philipians 4:10-13 take a new meaning ??