



MOSAIC



The Book of
James

Rich Man, Poor Man

James 5:1-12

James at a Glance

- Written by the half-brother of Jesus
 - Ya'aqov (Hebrew) or Iacobus (Greek)
 - James is the English derivative of the Latin, French, and southern European derivatives of Iacobus, which is itself derived from the Hebrew
- Written around 50 A.D.
- 1st book of the New Testament in order of authorship
- New Testament's "book of wisdom" (Proverbs, Sermon on the Mount)

James 5: The Main Players

- James
 - Head of the Jerusalem church
- The Jewish Christian diaspora
 - Acts 8:1, 11:19

James 5: Setting the Stage

- James 1
 - Find the joy in trials and tribulation
 - Ask God for wisdom
 - Human anger does not produce the righteousness of God
 - Be doers of the Word, not just hearers
 - Reign in your tongues
 - Pursue pure faith – care for the lowly and keep yourself from being corrupted by the world

James 5: Setting the Stage

- James 2
 - Do not show favoritism
 - A violation of any part of the law is a violation of the entire law
 - Works are evidence of a living faith
- James 3
 - Teachers of the Gospel are held to a higher standard
 - Watch your mouth!
 - Can't praise God & curse people made in His image with the same tongue
 - Seek and display God's wisdom, not that of the world

James 5: Setting the Stage

- James 4

- Battle the worldly desires that cause “fights and quarrels among you”
- “Friendship with the world is enmity against God” (James 4:4)
- Humble yourself before God, resist the devil, and “He will lift you up” (James 4:10)
- Do not slander your brothers and sisters (James 4:11-12)
- Put God first in your plans (James 4:13-17)

James 5:1-6

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your 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. 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. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

James 5:7-11

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

James 5:12

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

Is it a sin to be rich?

- Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven. ~ Proverbs 23:4-5
- “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ~ Luke 6:24
- And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” ~ Luke 18:23-24

Is it a sin to be rich?

- No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ~ Matthew 6:24
- Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ~ Hebrews 13:5
- For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ~ James 1:11

Is it a sin to be rich?

- But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ~ 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ~ Revelation 3:17

Is it a sin to be rich?

- Rich people in the Bible
 - Abraham
 - Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ~ Genesis 13:2
 - Isaac
 - Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. ~ Genesis 26:12
 - Jacob
 - In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys. ~ Genesis 30:43

Is it a sin to be rich?

- Rich people in the Bible

- Job

- He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. ~ Job 1:2-3
 - After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. ` Job 42:10
 - The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ~ Job 42:12

Is it a sin to be rich?

- Rich people in the Bible
 - Jesus' benefactors
 - After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. ~ Luke 8:1-3

Is it a sin to be rich?

- Rich people in the Bible
 - Jesus' Benefactors
 - Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ~ Mark 15:43
 - Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ~ John 3:1

God's advice to the rich

- Don't make being rich your goal (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15)
- Use your wealth to do good works (Proverbs 22:9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- Remember and honor the source of your wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18)
- Don't presume your wealth is a sign of God's favor (Matthew 5:45)

“First, despite all protests to the contrary, at its base, the cult of prosperity offers a man-centered rather than God-centered theology. Even though one is regularly told that it is to God’s own glory that we should prosper, the appeal is always made to our own selfishness and sense of well-being. In fact, the only one who could possibly believe this non-biblical nonsense is someone who wants to, and the only reason one would want to is because of its appeal to one’s selfishness.”

~ Gordon D. Fee, “The Disease of the Health and Wealth Gospels”

“Second, this false gospel presents a totally false theology of giving. In the New Testament, as well as the Old, God’s love and giving are predicated on His mercy, and therefore in their every expression they are unconditional. God loves, and gives, and forgives – unconditionally, no strings attached. The human response to divine grace is gratitude, which expresses itself in identical unconditional love, and giving, and forgiving. The cult of prosperity, on the other hand, tells us that we are to give in order to get.”

~ Gordon D. Fee, “The Disease of the Health and Wealth Gospels”

Patience in adversity

- The perseverance of the farmer is an analogy used throughout Scripture (James 5:7-8)
- Don't take your frustrations out on your brother or sister (James 5:9)
- Follow the example of the saints (James 5:10-11)
- Be truthful at all times (James 5:12)

Bountiful Eye

- Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ~ Hebrews 13:16
- Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. ~ Proverbs 3:27
- But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ~ 1 John 3:17

You shall give to him freely,
and your heart shall not be
grudging when you give to
him, because for this the
Lord your God will bless
you in all your work and in
all that you undertake. For
there will never cease to be
poor in the land.

Therefore I command you,
'You shall open wide your
hand to your brother, to
the needy and to the poor,
in your land.'

~ Deuteronomy 15:10-11



Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

~ James 2:16



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