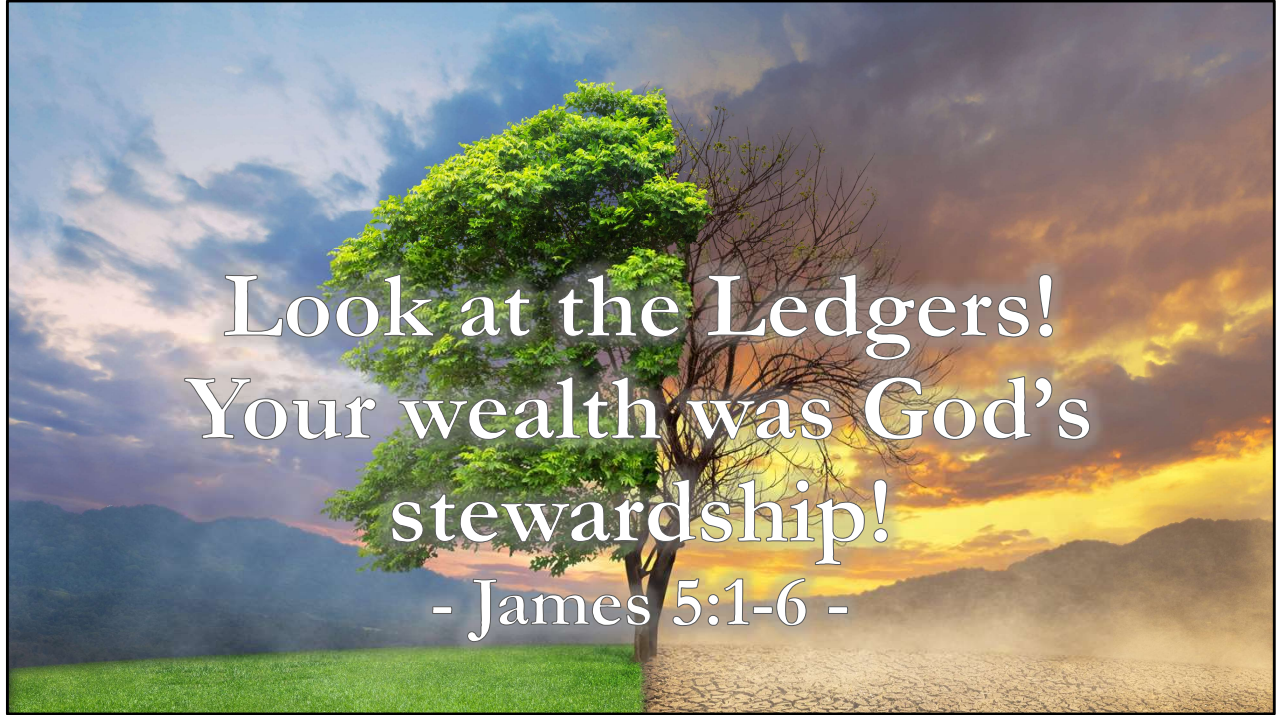


Faith  
Without  
Works

Is  
Dead

A Study in the Book of James



[Jas 5:1-8 NASB20] 1 Come now, you rich people, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have corroded, and their corrosion will serve as a testimony against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, [and] which has been withheld by you, cries out [against you;] and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of armies. 5 You have lived for pleasure on the earth and lived luxuriously; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous person; he offers you no resistance. 7 Therefore be patient, brothers [and sisters,] until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.



# LESSONS FROM THE UNGODLY RICH

James 5:1-3 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days

## Come now, you rich people, weep...howl...

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- “Violence ... Injustice ... Rich escape?”
  - Psalm 37, Habakkuk 1
- Hunter Bidens, Bernie Madoffs, George Soros ...
- “until the coming of the Lord.”
  - James 5:7 - Be Patient!
- Your (wealth) will serve as a testimony against you

[Jas 5:3 NASB20] 3 Your gold and your silver have corroded, and their corrosion will serve as a testimony against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

[Jas 1:9-12 NASB20] 9 Now the brother [or sister] of humble [circumstances] is to glory in his high position; 10 but the rich person [is to glory] in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; **so also the rich person, in the midst of his pursuits, will die out.** 12 **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.**

[Jas 2:5-6 NASB20] 5 Listen, my beloved brothers [and sisters:] did God not choose the poor of this world [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

[Jas 5:5 NASB20] 5 You have lived for pleasure on the earth and lived luxuriously; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

- Ja.5 is a continuation on the discussion of sins of Omission! Are you omitting God from your financial management?

- 2x James speaks of **those who Love Him** (the Lord) both in the context of the rich vs. the poor (rich in faith!)
- Ja.5 speaks of the Lords return and our need to wait, be patient, rest...Ps.37 Justice is coming, here comes the Judge!!
- Ja.5:1 and 7 show a contrast between rich people and “Brothers and sisters”!

Look to your ledgers, they tell who you love and where you put your trust. Your **checkbook is the barometer of your heart!**

[Psa 37:1-7 NASB20] 1 [A Psalm] of David. **Do not get upset because of evildoers**, Do not be envious of wrongdoers. 2 **For they will wither quickly like the grass, And decay like the green plants.** 3 **Trust in the LORD** and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 4 **Delight yourself in the LORD**; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 **Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him**, and He will do it. 6 He will bring out your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday. 7 **Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset** because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes.

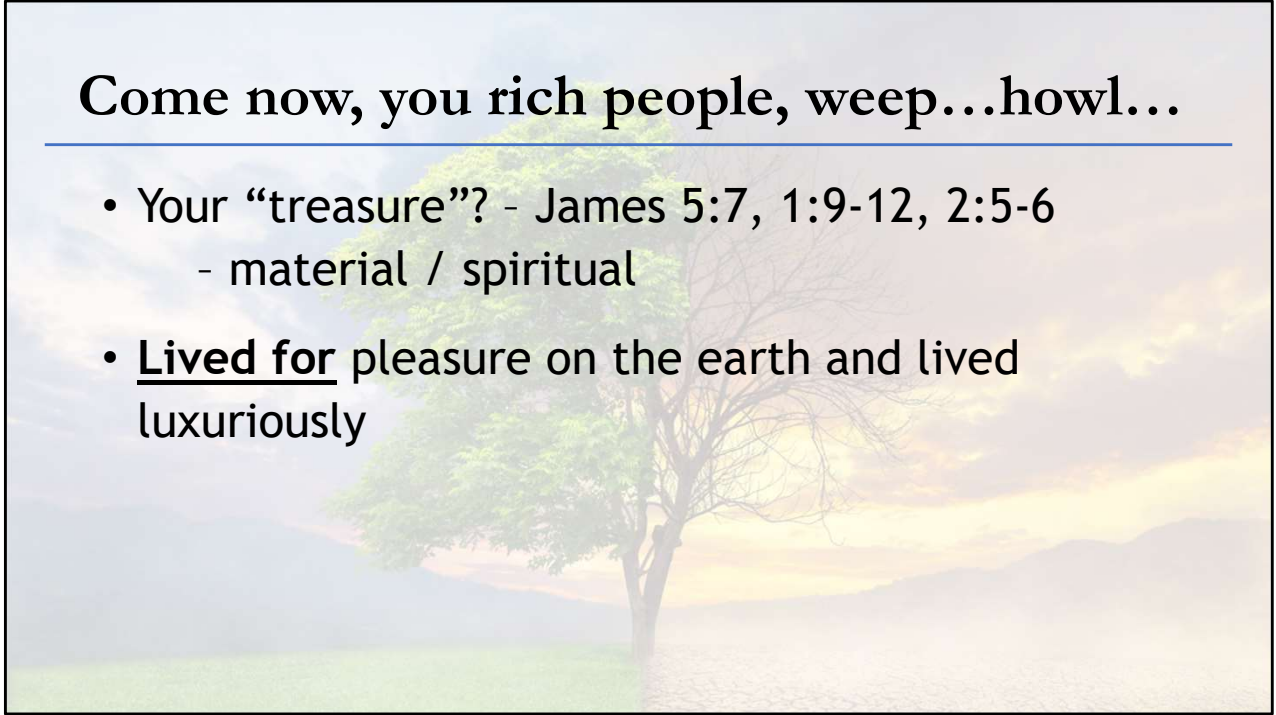
[Hab 1:1-2, 4-5, 13 NASB20] 1 The pronouncement which Habakkuk the prophet saw: 2 How long, LORD, have I called for help, And You do not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. ... 4 Therefore the Law is ignored, And justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out confused. 5 "Look among the nations! Watch! Be horrified! Be frightened speechless! For [I am] accomplishing a work in your days-- You would not believe [it even] if you were told! ... 13 [Your] eyes are too pure to look at evil, And You cannot look at harm [favorably.] Why do You look [favorably] At those who deal treacherously? [Why] are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

Jonnie Doc! Philly Johnnie Dougherty Union boss

## Come now, you rich people, weep...howl...

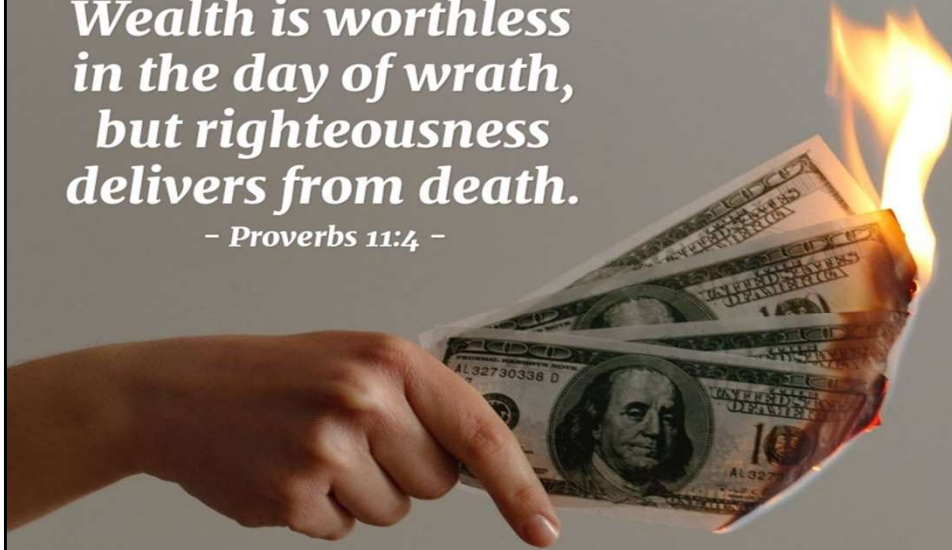
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- Your “treasure”? - James 5:7, 1:9-12, 2:5-6  
- material / spiritual
- Lived for pleasure on the earth and lived luxuriously



***Wealth is worthless  
in the day of wrath,  
but righteousness  
delivers from death.***

***- Proverbs 11:4 -***



 heartlight.org

## Come now, are you rich?

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- How do you define wealth/riches?
- Half the world lives on \$6.85 US a day, \$206 month
- Only 13% of evangelicals give close to a tithe, 2021
- (19%) of evangelicals give no money at all, (26%)

8.1 Billion people in the world today, 330 million in America, 1/24th

You can be a rich/miserable, empty hearted, friend poor person or a Poor/rich man in Christ!

This poll shows that 6 in 10 Americans believe money can buy happiness, with a hefty price tag of \$284,000 a year and \$1.2 million in the bank.

(19%) of evangelicals give no money at all to church or charity. (2021)

The average evangelical gave \$1,923 to church and \$622 to charity for a grand total of \$2,545 in the past twelve months. However, this includes many who gave nothing at all. If we just consider those who donate to church, the average giving to church is \$2,603. The average giving to charity is \$1,067 among those who give to charity.

For instance, among those who read the Bible at least once a week, 83% gave money to church in the last year. Among those who read the Bible irregularly, 53% did so. Among those who rarely or never read the Bible, only 30% gave money to a church. This pattern is repeated over and over for both church and charity with Bible readership, church attendance, online Bible study, and small group participation

half of all American evangelical Protestants give less than 1% of their household



income to church or charity.

The very youngest evangelicals show an average generosity level of 2.7% of household income, and for those 40 to 54 years old, it is actually a touch lower, at 2.5%. But this rises to 3.4% among the 55 to 69 age group, then to 5.1% for those 70 and older.

**Put another way, 26% of evangelicals 70 and older qualify as tithers in our estimates, giving 8% or more of their income to church/charity. Compare this with**

**14% in the 55 to 69 age group, 9% who are 40 to 54, and 10% under 40.**

### 2350 Bible verses on \$\$\$\$

We are wealthier in the last 2 generations than most of the Richest in history combined!

Electricity and Air conditioning

Indoor plumbing and Washing machines!

Clean Water

Health care: Vaccinations sparing millions! Insulin! Much improved life span and quality of life and relief for suffering

Welfare and Medicare

Travel: Cars, planes...

Televisions, Cell phones, Internet and cable

Americans make up only [4 percent of the world's population](#) yet hold [31 percent of the world's wealth](#).

<https://www.givingwhatwecan.org/how-rich-am-i> Put 2 adults at \$60k

Americans spent over [10 billion dollars](#) on Halloween this year, which is more than the [entire GDP](#) of 60 countries. Americans will spend around 900 billion dollars for Christmas, which is more than the GDP of 173 countries - all but 17. *Just Christmas.*

Many of you spend more on Pedicures than half the world has to live on in a year. we spend another 40 billion dollars on extra storage space.

Christians gave a higher percentage of their income to the church during the great depression (3.3%) that they do today (2.5%) Relevant mag.

Only 45% of church attendees volunteer in a ministry. That means 100% of the work is done by less than 50% of the people

Only 3-5% of Americans who give to their local church do so through regular tithing. People who tithe regularly typically have less debt than other demographics - 8 out of 10 have zero credit card debt and 28% of them are completely debt free, including not having a mortgage

Only 5% of the U.S. population tithes. 19 21 New York Times Barna

Nearly 40% of church volunteers Source: University of Southern Mississipp

Americans spend **approximately \$1,000** on Christmas each year.

<https://explodingtopics.com/blog/christmas-spending-stats> \$997.73

Bankrate analyzed the spending habits of everyday Americans. In total, survey respondents (who revealed their household income and said they purchased the products included in the study) reported spending more than \$2,400, on average, per year on lottery tickets, alcohol, tobacco (or e-cigarette products) and gambling.

Randy Alcorn reckons that “15 percent of everything Christ said relates to this topic—more than his teachings on heaven and hell combined.”<sup>1</sup>

You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. ([Mark 10:21](#))

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. . . . But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ([Luke 6:20, 24](#))

Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ([Luke 14:33](#))

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 18:25](#))

One’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. ([Luke 12:15](#))

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ([Matt. 6:33](#))

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old. ([Luke 12:33](#))

Zacchaeus . . . said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor.” . . . And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house.” ([Luke 19:8-9](#))

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ([Matt. 13:44](#))

Jesus . . . saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.” ([Luke 21:1-3](#))

But God said to [the man who built even bigger barns], “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. ([Luke 12:20-21](#))

Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. . . . Follow me. ([Luke 9:58-59](#))

Why does Jesus express such a remarkable concern with what we do with our

money? The reason for this, it seems, is the basic principle that Jesus laid down: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” ([Matt. 6:21](#); [Luke 12:34](#)). In other words, the reason money is so crucial is that what we do with it signals where our heart is. “Where our heart is” means where our worship is. When the heart is set on something, it values it, cherishes it, treasures it. That is what worship means.

## Come now, are you rich?

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- Jesus spoke on \$\$\$\$ 15% of the time, more than heaven/hell, 2,350 bible verses on money
- <https://www.givingwhatwecan.org/how-rich-am-i>





Money can become Idolatry - a false god

[1Ti 6:10 NASB20] 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

[Heb 13:5 NASB20] 5 [Make sure that] your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER ABANDON YOU,"

[2Ti 3:1 NASB20] 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

[2Ti 3:2 NASB20] 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

[2Ti 3:4 NASB20] 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

[Mat 6:24 NASB20] 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

## We don't have to tithe anymore, that's O.T.

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- Abraham and Jacob tithed before the Law!  
- Hebrews 7
- God warned that those who didn't tithe Stole from Him! - **Malachi 3** - And God does not change!
- Jesus Himself (N.T.) reiterated tithing!  
- Mathew 23:23

1. Believers are no longer under the Mosaic covenant (Rom. 6:14-15; 7:5-6; Gal. 3:15-4:7; 2 Cor. 3:4-18).
2. Abraham gave a tenth of his spoils of war to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:20), Heb.7:4-10
3. Jacob at Bethel and promised him covenant blessings; the patriarch promised God a tenth of everything granted him ([Gen. 28:22](#)).
4. [Mat 23:23 NASB20] 23 **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these [are the things] you should have done without neglecting the others.**

[Mat 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43 NASB20] 21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.' ... [Mat 5:22 NASB20] 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty [enough to go] into the fiery hell.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; ... [Mat

5:28-29 NASB20] 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 "Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your [body,] than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' ... [Mat 5:32 NASB20] 32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for [the] reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'EYE FOR EYE, and TOOTH FOR TOOTH.' ... [Mat 5:39-42 NASB20] 39 "But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'.. [Mat 5:44-48 NASB20] 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on [the] evil and [the] good, and sends rain on [the] righteous and [the] unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same? 47 "And if you greet only your brothers [and sisters,] what more are you doing [than others?] Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same? 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

[Mal 3:2, 4-11, 13-18 NASB20] 2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like launderer's soap. ... 4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old, and as in former years. 5 "Then I will come near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, those who oppress the wage earner in his wages [or] the widow or the orphan, and those who turn away the stranger [from justice] and do not fear Me," says the LORD of armies. 6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, the sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. 7 "From the days of your fathers you have turned away from My statutes and have not kept [them.] Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of armies. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' 8 "Would anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' [In] tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the entire nation [of you!] 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and put

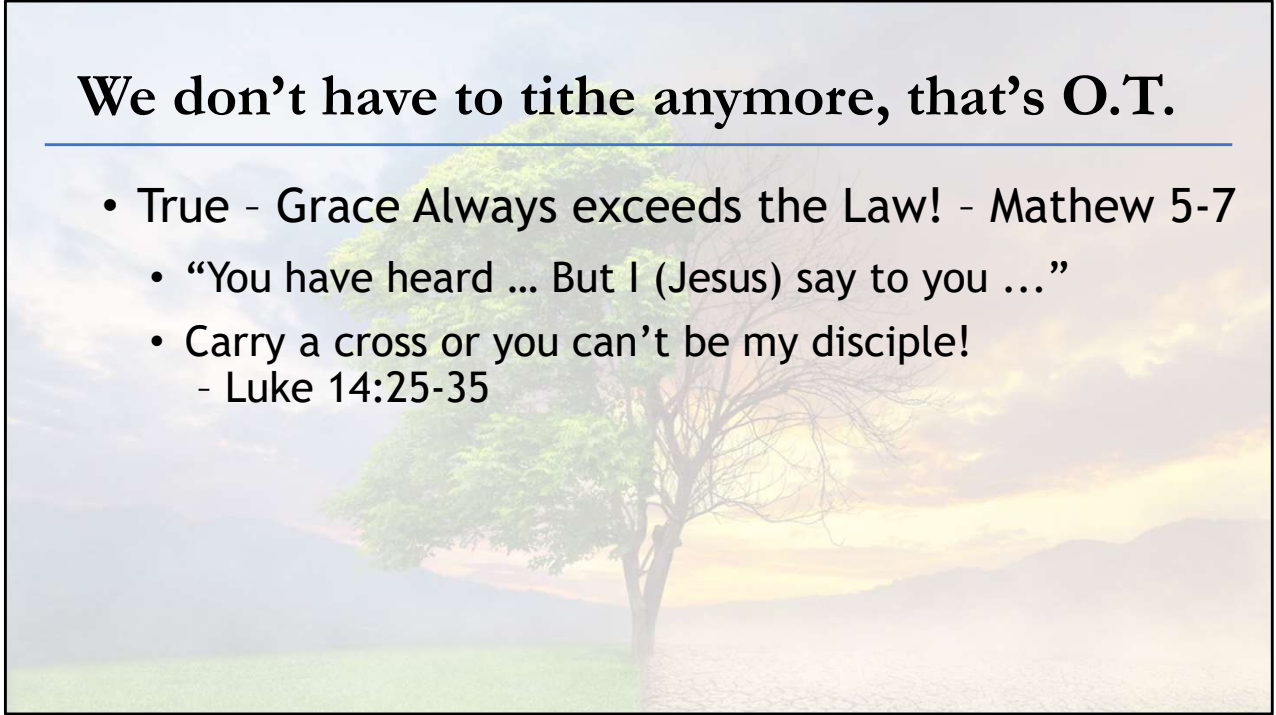
**Me to the test now in this," says the LORD of armies, "if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. 11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruit of your ground; nor will the vine in the field prove fruitless to you,"** says the LORD of armies. ... 13 "Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' 14 "You have said, 'It is pointless to serve God; and what benefit [is it for us] that we have done what He required, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of armies? 15 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up, but they also put God to the test and escape [punishment.]" 16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened attentively and heard [it,] and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and esteem His name. 17 "And they will be Mine," says the LORD of armies, "on the day that I prepare [My] own possession, and I will have compassion for them just as a man has compassion for his own son who serves him." 18 **So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked,** between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.



## We don't have to tithe anymore, that's O.T.

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- True - Grace Always exceeds the Law! - Mathew 5-7
  - “You have heard ... But I (Jesus) say to you ...”
  - Carry a cross or you can't be my disciple!  
- Luke 14:25-35





**She cast in all that she had.**

Mark 12:44

### **The Widows Might! Mite!**

“she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

Jesus commended the extremely poor Woman; he didn't correct her!

“Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God.”

- Luke 12:21 -

[Mar 12:41-44 NASB20] 41 And [Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury, and [began] watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two lepta coins, which amount to a quadrans. 43 Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

**Jesus commended the extremely poor Woman, he didn't correct her and tell her she's too poor to give!!**

## Where's your treasure?

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- Tithe 10% 1<sup>st</sup>! Then pay your bills
- Prayerfully sacrifice it to the Lord! For His glory!
- It is remembering our place! We are Stewards!  
It is His!
- It is a **test of trust (faith) and treasure**

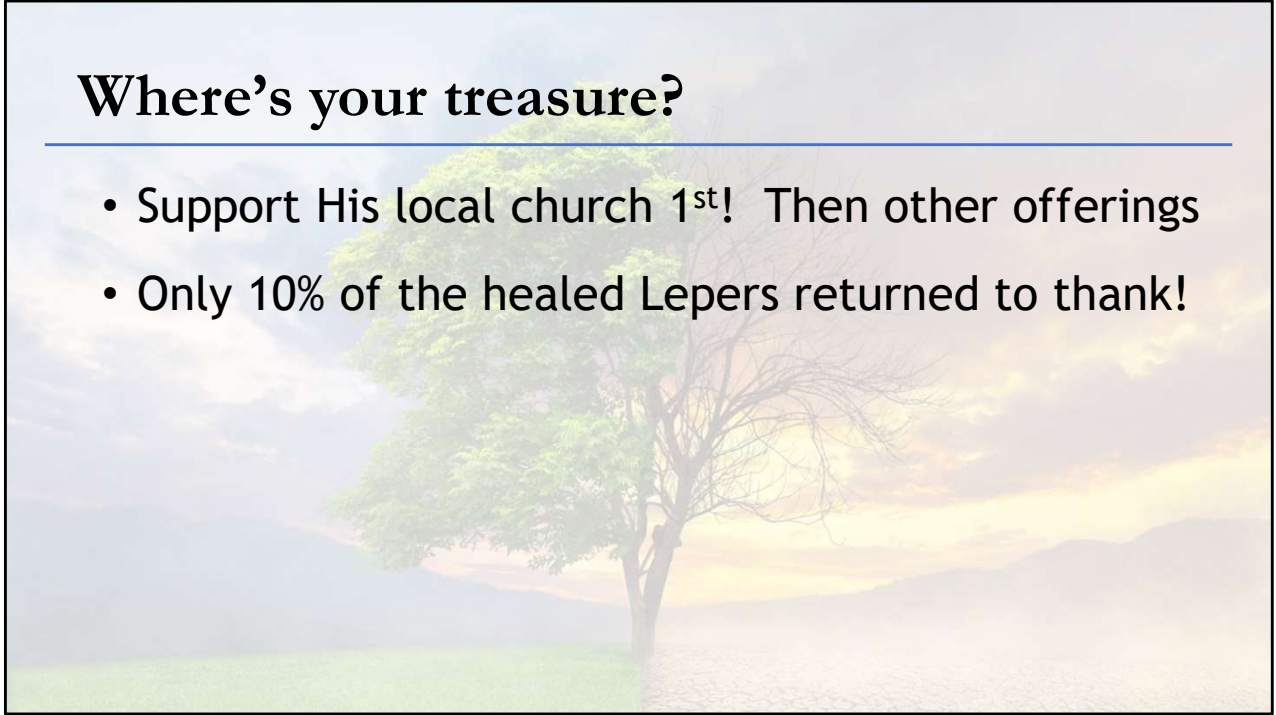
Schreiner says its closer to 20% of our giving than 10% IF you add it all together!

[Mat 6:21 NASB20] 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## Where's your treasure?

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- Support His local church 1<sup>st</sup>! Then other offerings
- Only 10% of the healed Lepers returned to thank!





## Rich young ruler

Mt. 19:16-30

Mark 10:17-22

Lk. 18:18-23

[Mat 19:16-26 NASB20] 16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do so that I may obtain eternal life?" 17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is [only] One who is good; but if you want to enter life, keep the commandments." 18 [Then] he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY; 19 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 20 The young man said to Him, "All these I have kept; what am I still lacking?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be complete, go [and] sell your possessions and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. 23 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 "And again I say to 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."  
25 When the disciples heard [this,] they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" 26 And looking at [them,] Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## Saint Nicklaus ... Aka “Santa Claus”

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- Radically transformed by the gospel! Saint = holy
- Became a Bishop, a Pastor! Adored Jesus! 280 A.D.
- Suffered in Prison, facing death, for Jesus!
- Generously gave away his wealth, 90%?1
- Rescued girls from brothels, Sailors from execution
- Slapped Heretics! For Questioning Jesus’ divinity!

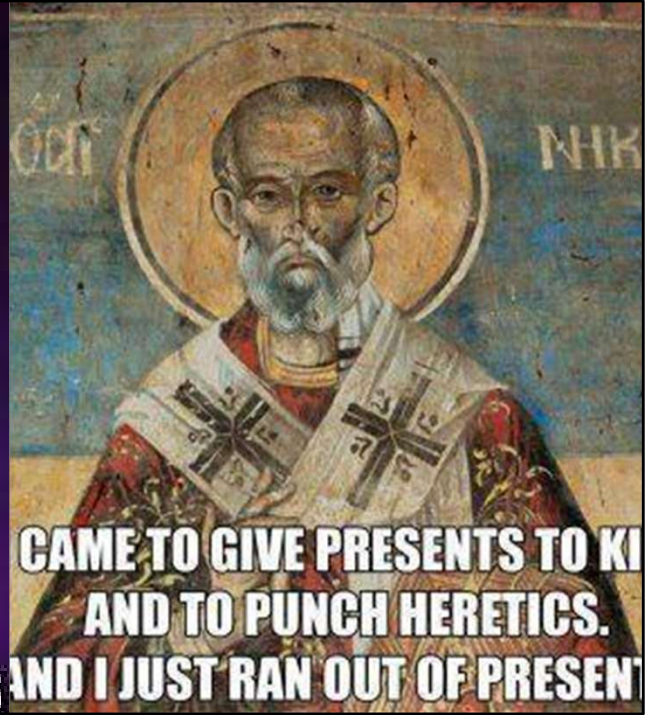
Aka Also known as

GAVE TO THE POOR. SUFFERED FOR FAITH,  
SAVED GIRLS FROM BROTHELS,  
PREVENTED MURDER, DID MIRACLES...

Άγιος

Νικόλαος

STILL REMEMBERED FOR LOSING  
HIS TEMPER AND PUNCHING ARIUS



CAME TO GIVE PRESENTS TO KID  
AND TO PUNCH HERETICS.  
AND I JUST RAN OUT OF PRESENTS



## How the Grinch Stole Christmas! - 1957

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- “Every who down in Whoville, the tall and the small, was singing without any presents at all”
- “Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.”
- “No one should be alone on Christmas.” - Cindy Lou Who. “His name shall be called Immanuel”!

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is a [Christmas](#) children's book by [Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel](#) written in [rhymed verse](#) with illustrations by the author. It follows the [Grinch](#), a cranky, solitary creature who attempts to thwart the public's [Christmas](#) plans by stealing Christmas gifts and decorations from the homes of the nearby town of [Whoville](#) on [Christmas Eve](#). Miraculously, the Grinch realizes that Christmas is not all about money and presents.

The story was published as a book by [Random House](#) in 1957, and at approximately the same time in an issue of [Redbook](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The book criticizes the [commercialization of Christmas](#) and the holiday season.<sup>[3]</sup>

Dr. Seuss wrote the book quickly and was mostly finished with it within a few weeks.<sup>[8]</sup> Biographers Judith and Neil Morgan wrote that it was the easiest book of his career to write, except for its conclusion.<sup>[5]</sup>

Dr. Seuss claimed he was the inspiration for the character, as his wife's health problems and his dismay with the commercialization of Christmas made him feel "very Grinchish" as he looked in the mirror one year on December 26.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Cohen notes that Seuss drove a car with a license plate that read "GRINCH".<sup>[15]</sup>

According to Dr. Seuss:

I got hung up getting the Grinch out of the mess. I got into a situation where I

sounded like a second-rate preacher or some biblical truism... Finally in desperation... without making any statement whatever, I showed the Grinch and the Whos together at the table, and made a pun of the Grinch carving the 'roast beast'. ... I had gone through thousands of religious choices, and then after three months it came out like that. [\[5\]](#)

<https://screenrant.com/best-quotes-from-how-grinch-stole-christmas-original-movie/>

“They’re just waking up! I know just what they’ll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two Then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry boo-hoo!”

“But I think that the most likely reason of all May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.”

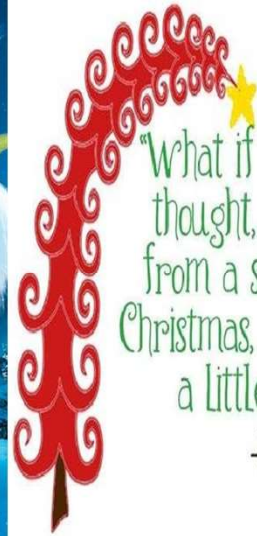
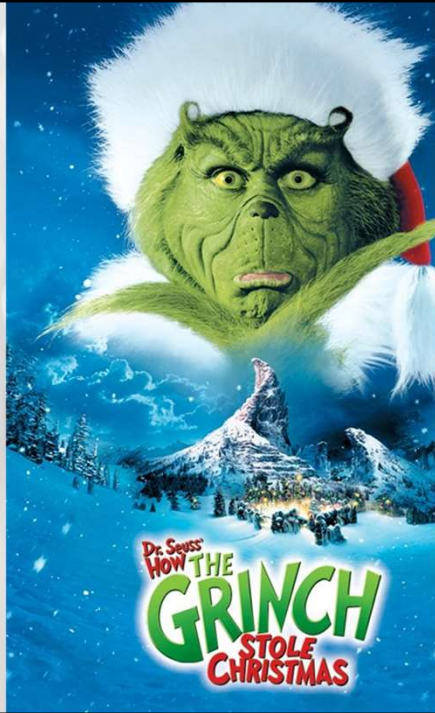
“You’re a mean one, Mr. Grinch / You really are a heel / You’re as cuddly as a cactus, you’re as charming as an eel / Mr. Gri-inch! / You’re a bad banana with a...greasy black peel.” - **Dr. Suess**

“The Grinch hated Christmas—the whole Christmas season. Oh, please don’t ask why, no one quite knows the reason. It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. It could be his head wasn’t screwed on just right. But I think that the most likely reason of all...may have been that his heart was 2 sizes too small.” - **Dr. Suess**

“All this excess and nonsense, it was all about greed. About meaningless stuff that they didn’t even need. Yeah.”



“Every Who down  
in Whoville, the tall  
and the small,  
Was singing without  
any presents at all!”



“What if Christmas, he  
thought, doesn't come  
from a store. What if  
Christmas, perhaps, means  
a little bit more.”

-Dr. Seuss,

## Scrooge - 1843

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- Ebenezer! - 1 Samuel 7:12 - “the stone of help”
- Tiny Tim “hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see” (Dickens).

[1Sa 7:12 NASB20] 12 Then Samuel took a stone and placed it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying, "So far the LORD has helped us."

[1Sa 5:1 NASB20] 1 Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 4:1

“Marley was dead, to begin with.” opening line

**Why its believed this book was deeply biblical-spiritual**

- Use of a **Bible name**
- It’s a **story of Redemption**, even so much as the rich! Mt.19:23-26
- The opening story line - Marley was dead. We are dead in our trespasses and sins
- It **occurs on Christmas**
- **Tiny Tims comment in Church!**
- Mention of an **Idol**

*“It matters little,” she said, softly. “To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve . . . I have seen your nobler aspirations*

*fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not.”* (Charles Dickens, 1843).

We learn of the object of this faith when, arriving home from church on Christmas Day, Bob Cratchit shares with the family how that Tiny Tim “hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see” (Dickens).

For Scrooge, upon seeing the certain hopeless end of the path he’d chosen and feeling the convicting finger point “from the grave to him, and back again”, he uttered a cry of repentance and pleaded for some hope of salvation: “‘hear me! I am not the man I was’ . . . For the first time the hand appeared to shake . . . ‘Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!’” (Dickens).

Sadly, Ebenezer Scrooge doesn’t get any positive assurance to this end, though the final stanza of the carol shows Scrooge a changed man and intimates that, as he changed, so his end would change.

As for us, we have a certain hope. God’s Word assures us “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

They are cheapskates, skinflints, stiffs, tightwads.

“Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far the LORD has helped us’” (verse 12). Ebenezer means “stone of help.”

<https://understandingthegospel.org/explore-the-gospel/short-articles/ebenezer-scrooge-and-christmas/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/scrooge-and-the-death-that-gives-life/>

Scrooge’s story is timeless because it is a spiritual story. His transformation echoes that of Zaccheus ([Luke 19](#)), the counterpoint to the rich young ruler whose inability to loosen his grasp on the things of this world introduces Christ’s teaching that “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” ([Matthew 19:24](#)). When we first meet Scrooge, he is that rich man. His love of money has nearly extinguished the sparks of love and joy that sputter fitfully among the gathering shadows of his dark heart. His lamentable condition is brought into stark relief by being examined in the glow of Christmas, “a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time” when shut-up hearts are opened to let in the light of kindness and reflect it back again.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/scrooge-and-the-death-that-gives-life/>

“I am here tonight to warn you, that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping

my fate. A chance and hope of my procuring, Ebenezer.”

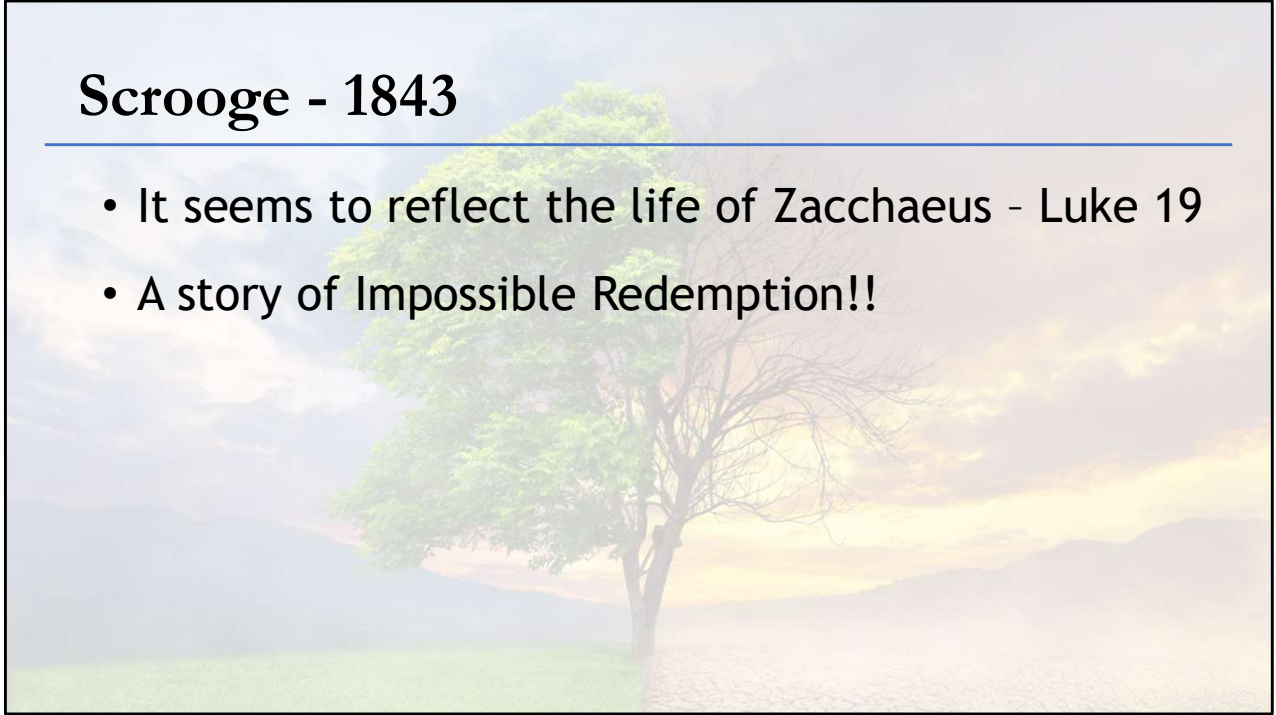
[Mat 19:23-26 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard [this,] they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" 26 And looking at [them,] Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

[Luk 19:1-10 NASB20] 1 [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. 3 [Zaccheus] was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was unable due to the crowd, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree in order to see Him, because He was about to pass through that [way.] 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 And he hurried and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 When [the people] saw [this,] they all [began] to complain, saying, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!" 8 But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

## Scrooge - 1843

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- It seems to reflect the life of Zacchaeus - Luke 19
- A story of Impossible Redemption!!







## **Be patient, brothers! Here comes the Judge!**

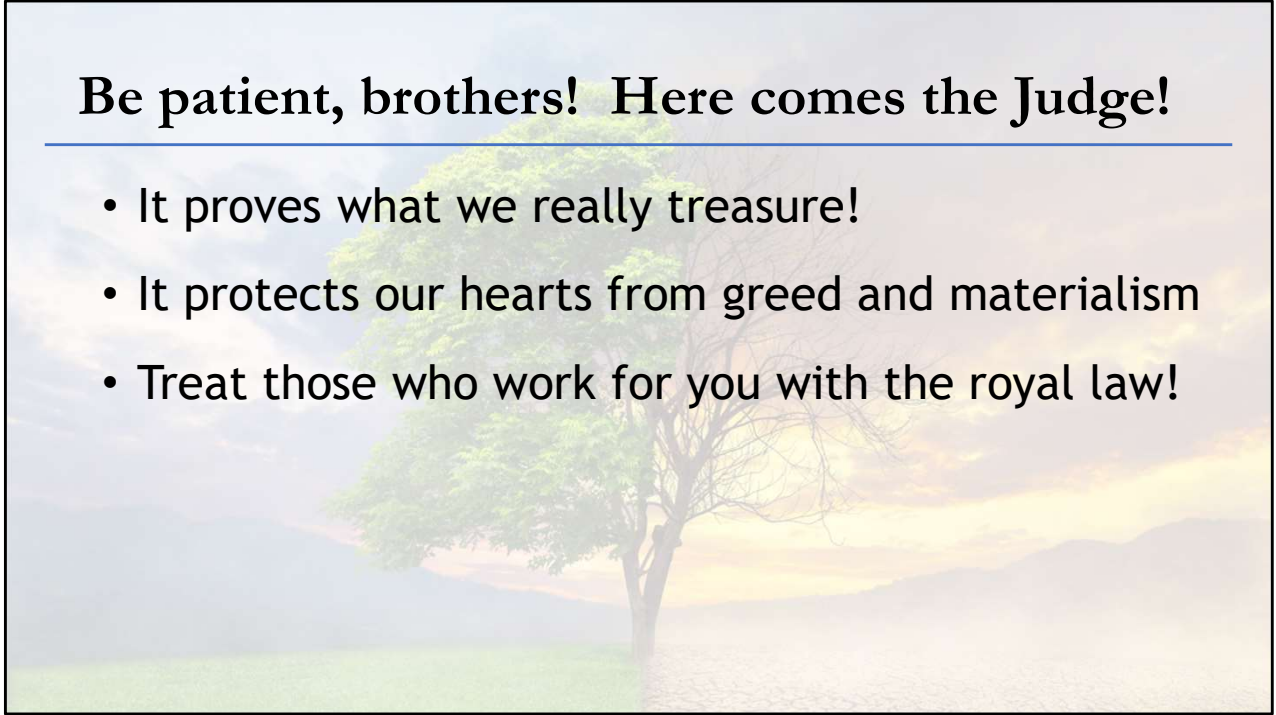
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- Believe God! Trust, wait, Rest in Him & His promises!
- Tithing/giving establishes priorities!
- It expresses deep gratitude for His lavish love!
- It shows what/who we really believe!

## **Be patient, brothers! Here comes the Judge!**

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- It proves what we really treasure!
- It protects our hearts from greed and materialism
- Treat those who work for you with the royal law!




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.



James 5:3  
Creating a Great Day.com

# Trusting Enough **To Tithe**





**And they did not do  
as we expected, but  
they gave themselves  
first to the Lord and  
then to us in keeping  
with God's will.**

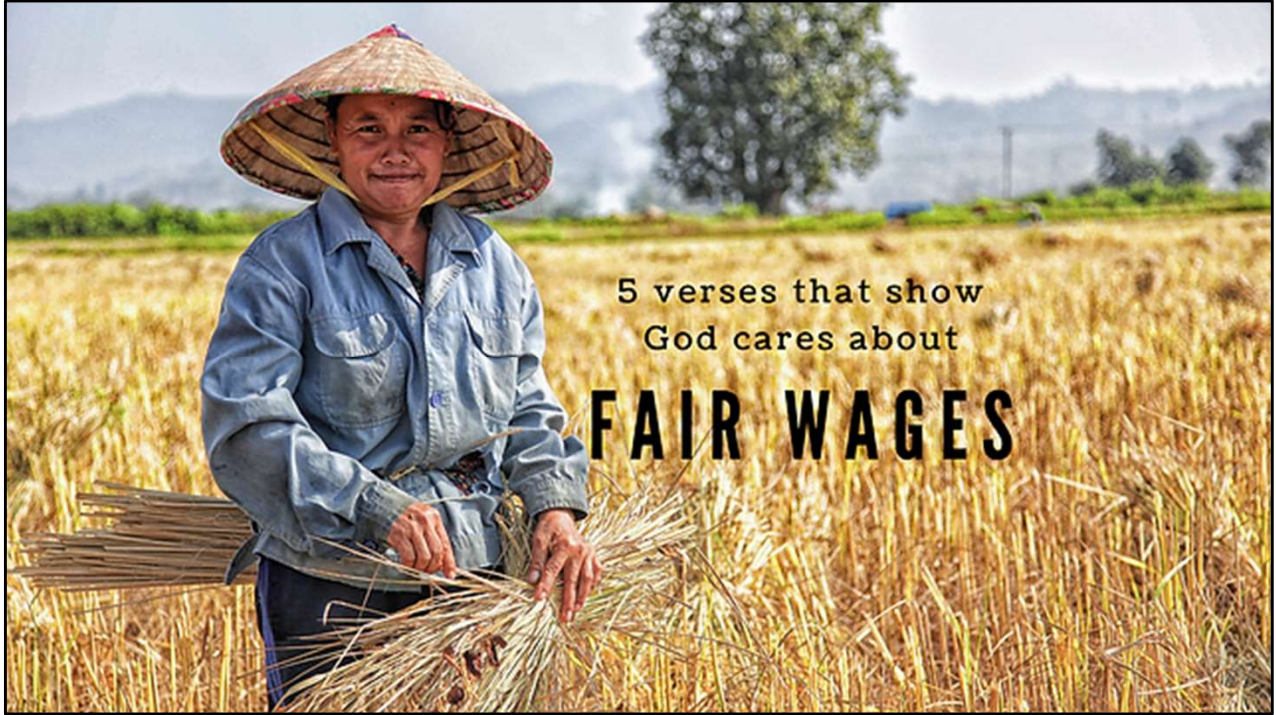
- 2 Corinthians 8:5 -



**JAMES**

Temporary Wealth

**FAITH WORKS**



5 verses that show  
God cares about

# **FAIR WAGES**

GENUINE  
**FAITH**  
IN ACTION

THE EPISTLE OF

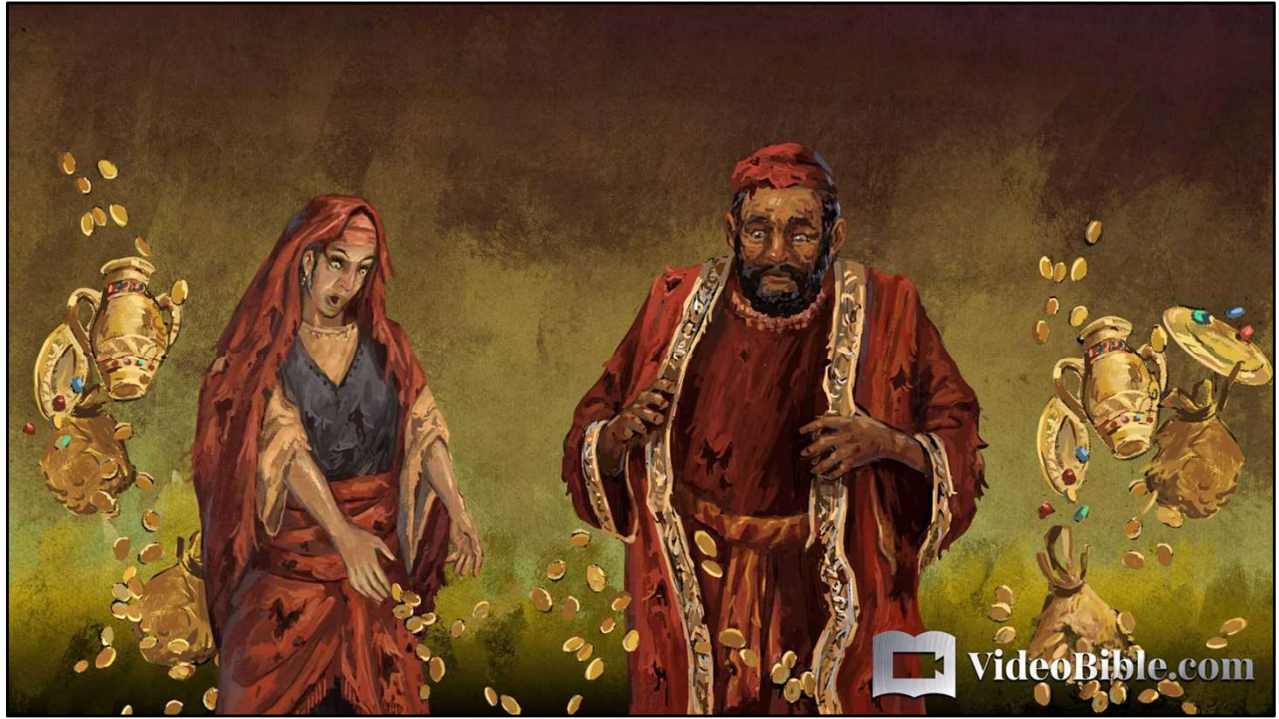
**JAMES**

THE  
**WORTHLESSNESS  
OF RICHES**

(JAMES 5:1-6)

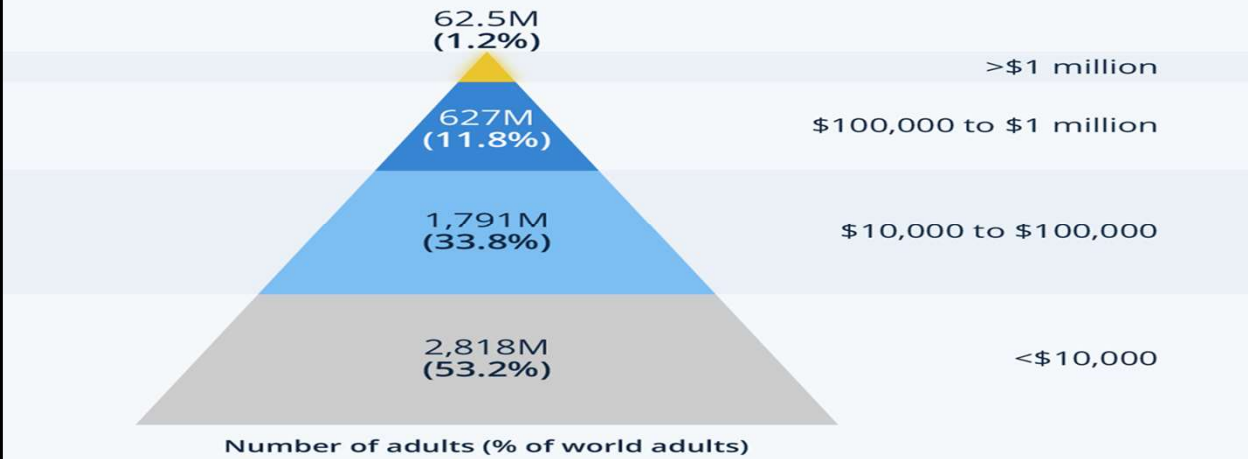






# The Global Wealth Pyramid

An overview of global wealth distribution in 2021



Source: Credit Suisse 2022 Global Wealth Report



statista

**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 5:1-6**

A REASON FOR  
**HOPE**

[www.areasonforhope.net](http://www.areasonforhope.net)

