



Go for God!

“THE COMING OF THE LORD IS AT HAND!”

JAMES CHAPTER 5

I) CORRUPTION & CRIME IN THE LAST DAYS! (v1-6)

(v1-3) **The corrupt rich are called to REPENTANCE!** Their riches are ill-gotten gain, thus James calls them on the carpet causing the unscrupulous to see the error of their way or face judgment. Notice in verse 3 **“and will eat your flesh like fire,”** this reminds us of the self-centered uncaring lifestyle and judgment that fell upon the **rich man** in **Luke 16:19-31**.

- The antithesis is the repentance of **Zacchaeus** in **Luke 19:1-10**.

(Jesus said in **Matt 6:19-21** - *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*)

***Key to the FAITHFUL** verse 4 – God hears **“the cries of the reapers,”** He hears our **PRAYERS!** (Exodus chapters 1 – 12)

(v4-5) **Here James says people worked, but weren’t paid. This is fraud!** Today we have slave labor throughout the world, working for pennies while the employers reap huge profits. Our world is filled with corruption through drug cartels to sex slaves and pornography; the Day of Judgment is coming!

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(v6) Talks about the corrupt rich taking people to court in lawsuits without justification and because they are rich they can afford powerful attorneys and even bribe police and judges; they have **“condemned and murdered the just.”** (Be **FAIR** - **Colossians 3:22–4:1**)

II) COURAGE & THE COMING OF THE LORD! (v7-12)

(v7-11) Five keys to COURAGE:

#1 – Christians must be **PATIENT** until the rapture! - **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

#2 – Christians must be involved in the **HARVEST** of souls until the rapture! – **Matthew 28:18-20** - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

#3 – Christians must **ESTABLISH THEIR HEARTS** until the rapture! - **Psalms 119:11** - *Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

#4 – Christians must not **GRUMBLE** against one another! - **Romans 14:19** - *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

#5 – Christians must **ENDURE** suffering like **Job** - **Job Ch. 1 – 2:1-9**

(v12) **Stay simple**, don’t make promises to God or one another that you can’t keep; **let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no.”**