

James

Chapter 5:1-6

Chapter 1: Spiritual maturity is born in suffering

Chapter 2: Spiritual maturity is evidenced in action

Chapter 3: Spiritual maturity is heard and spoken in word

Chapter 4: Spiritual maturity resist the devil and draws near to God

Chapter 5: Spiritual maturity prays and gathers others

Sin of covetousness

- The first part of this chapter dials in on the rich in the congregation
- 'Come now' mentioned like in chapter 4 and grieve heavily
- Verse 1-3 are perfect state of completion as a prophetic anticipation
- Cloths were indicators of wealth (adorn themselves)
- They treasured up, stored up, hoarded that will bring misery not riches
- Fire being from God's judgment, they very thing they seek will destroy them
- Chapter 4:13-17 pairs will with these verses concerning profit

Sin of oppression

- To steal, hold back, intentionally start with the purpose of default
- Rabbinic teaching held that you were to pay workers at the end of each day
- Those who were defrauded could 'cry' to heaven with the promise of hearing
- Those who cry and not heard in vain for the Lord remembers their cries

Sin of sensuality of passion

- They had acclimated to luxury - means soft, easy focus on pleasure
- Not a squandering reference, heart refers to the stomach (bowels)
- Self indulgence is their, 'bellies is their god'
- This sin only accumulates, never satisfies

Sin of judgment/persecution

- They passed judgements down based on their position not truth
- Treasures turn into kindling for God's wrath (Deut. 24:14-15)
- It was luxuries living at the expense of others (James 2:5)
- They aren't getting away with anything
- Instead of stewarding well as God's gift, they hoarded toward their destruction
- Heavy ties to Matthew chapter 6
- Suffering is purposely avoided by pursuing pleasure or passion