

James 5:1-12  
“The Reckoning”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 5:1-12) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “The Reckoning”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY...

- Remember we've learned that *practical Christian living*...
  - At the *Crossroads of Culture*...
    - Is the CORE message of James.

AND...

- His words are perfect for the TIME we live in!

LOOK AT THE SCREEN FOR A MOMENT...

- (Hosea 4:6) NKJV
  - *Lack of knowledge* = Ignorance / unaware
- (Hosea 4:6) NLT
  - *Because they don't know me* = Relationship flavor

OK... **HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:**

- Read (James 5:1-12) NLT

**HERE'S WHAT WE CAN QUICKLY UNDERSTAND:**

- a) James rebukes the rich for the love of money (vv.1-6)
- b) James helps the church move forward (vv.7-12)

**HERE'S TWO WAYS WE CAN THINK ABOUT THIS:**

**IDEA #1 – DON'T BE A FOOL:** (vv.1-6)

James 5:1-12  
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JAMES REBUKES THE RICH...

- For violating the “*lower class*” thru fraud!
- And he pronounces on them a coming doom.

IN (v.1)...

- *Miseries / anguish* = This is a compound word (talao – poros)...
  - Meaning: To undergo...
  - AND callus OR hardened concrete.

**POINT BEING:**

- What started off as an interest in making money...
  - Turned into *the love of money*...
    - AND it brought all kinds of injustices & corruption.

LISTEN...

- Even though THIS was written during the 1st Century...
  - The principal message... is timeless!

THE APPLICATIONS...

- Around *the love of money*...
  - Speak pointedly to ALL people.

PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY...

- To instruct those with money (1 Tim 6:17-19) NLT

*Teach them this* (v.17)...

- i. Don't be proud (a self-made-man... I don't need anybody's help)
- ii. Don't trust in money (it's a false defense)

*Tell them this* (v.18)...

- i. Use your money to do good (it's a gift from God, so use it for God)
- ii. Good works (financial support)
- iii. Be generous to the needy

OK... LET ME SHOW YOU THE SAME CONCEPT...

- That goes a little deeper (Jer. 9:23-24) NKJV (flip to text)

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- *Glory in wisdom* = Self-satisfaction about...
  - 1) Achievements
  - 2) Abilities
  
- *Mighty man* = Self-satisfaction about...
  - 1) Strength
  - 2) Health
  
- *Rich man* = Self-satisfaction about...
  - 1) Wealth
  - 2) I’ve got security
  - 3) I’m insulated & protected

THE CHRISTIAN IS TO...

- Understand that these misguided affections...
  - Are NOT from God!

(1 John 2:15-16) NLT

JESUS MADE THE POINT IN A PARABLE...

- (Luke 12:20-21) NLT

**A FINAL LESSON FOR BELIEVER’S:**

MISUSE OF RICHES...

- Erodes our character!

*God will not judge our sins, because they have already been judged on the cross...*

- *But He will judge our works [our] personal ministry. ~ Warren Wiersbe ~*

THIS IS TAUGHT IN (1 Cor. 3:11-15) NLT

**IDEA #2 – KEY’S TO MOVE FORWARD:** (vv.7-12)

NOW...

- James **pivots** his message at (v.7)...
  - With **three valuable insights:**

a) **Faith Guidance**

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- i. **Focus on the finish** = The Lord’s return (v.7(a))
- ii. **Be patience** = Like the farmer waiting for rain (v.7(b))
- iii. **Take courage** = Get strength in the face of difficulty (v.8)

**b) Dangers to Avoid**

- i. **Grumbling** (v.9)

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- How about Disappointments!?!
  - Many times disappointment leads to an overflow of frustration...
    - That gets released on those closest to us.
      - And it strains the relationship
- ii. **God is watching so break this habit** (v.9)

**c) Examples for Encouragement**

- i. **O.T. Saints** (Habakkuk)
- ii. **Prophets** (Jeremiah)
- iii. **Job** (a good man)

**HERE’S A TRUTH I’VE LEARNED:**

- Maybe it can help you too!?!

WHEN I CALL TO MIND...

- The words of scripture...
  - I can see beyond the darkness!
- God’s whisper becomes a light...
  - To my mind & emotions & He lifts me out of the dark spots!
    - (Idea = Ps. 119:105)

FINALLY... (v.12)

- The section closes talking about oaths??? (What?)

THINK...

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- About this carrying the idea of INTEGRITY!

THE LESSONS...

- Poured out in this epistle have been about “*proving your faith.*”

SO... IN A POWERFUL CONTRAST...

- Against the people who do NOT have faith...
  - May your faith standout...
    - Because you have integrity!
    - Because your words can be trusted!
    - Because you’re not taking advantage of people!
    - Because you’re not pretending to be something you’re not!

(Ps. 141:3-4) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

2020 HAS BEEN A YEAR...

- That’s scared our souls!
  - Our lives have been changed!

BUT...

- What James teaches the Church...
  - Is how to LIVE...
    - In spite of the LOSS!
- To choose *Patience* & *Persevere*...
  - Because Jesus is coming!

~ LET’S PRAY ~

IF YOU NEED PRAY THIS MORNING...

- Please come forward as the worship team plays.