

James 5:1-6 – Judgment on the Wicked Rich

ANNOUNCEMENT: Audrey Broggi Conference on being a Titus 2 Woman, Feb. 20-21

INTRODUCTION

- What are some things people are tempted to place their trust in?
- READ James 5:1-6
 - Luke 16:13; Matt. 6:19-21
 - The audience of James' letter would have known Jesus' teaching on this, which makes them _____.
- The overall theme of James is testing your faith. How do money and material things play into testing your faith?
 - _____
 -

A brief discussion on idolatry...

- Guiding questions that will help you to assess your heart for idolatry:
 - Am I willing to sin to _____?
 - Am I willing to sin if I think I'm going to _____?
 - Do I turn to this as a _____ or _____ instead of going to God?
 - When I don't get it, do I:
 - _____ in anger?
 - _____ or get depressed?
 - _____?
 - get _____?
- James is rebuking those who _____ to worship God yet practically worship money.
 - His audience is the dispersed Jewish believers (Jewish diaspora).
- What is the implication of James addressing this to churches, i.e. professing believers?
 - _____
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- If our _____ is in Christ, we must flee from sins that _____ unbelievers.

THE DECLARATION, THE COMMAND, AND THE WARNING

- The Declaration: v. 1 – “come now”
 - This is an _____ call to listen.
 - He used this same Greek phrase in 4:13.
- The Command: v. 1 – “weep and howl”
 - The Greek word for “weep” is *klaiō* which literally means to _____.
 - He also used it in 4:9 regarding _____ sorrow.
 - If you feel no sorrow over sin, then are you genuinely repentant?
 - If you are not repentant, then can you be forgiven?
 - The Greek word for “howl” is *ololuzō* which literally means _____.
 - *Klaiō* and *ololuzō* used together creates a picture of violent and uncontrollable _____.
 - This is a similar image that many OT prophets used to describe a godly reaction to sin.
- The Warning: v. 1 – “miseres...coming upon you”
 - The Greek word for “miseres” is *talapōria* which literally means _____ suffering.
 - How can James claim that these miseries are coming upon them?
 - _____
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- Four major sins we see the rich committing in these verses: (1) hoarding wealth, (2) stealing salaries, (3) self-indulgent spending, (4) killing to keep

HOARDING WEALTH (vv. 2-3)

- What about hoarding is sinful?
 - _____
 -
- Three examples of wasted resources (markings of wealth in James' day):
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

- What modern markers of wealth do we notice people hoarding today?
 - _____
 -
- v. 3 – “witness”
 - This rusted and rotted wealth is _____ against their wicked greed.
 - Also, a metaphor for their unregenerate hearts.
- v. 3 – “consume”
 - Fire symbolizes _____.
 - This is a reference to a conscious (Luke 16:23-24), bodily (Matt. 5:29), eternal (Matt. 25:41) punishment.
 - *Sidebar: Unfortunately, annihilationism has made a recent comeback. This belief is not biblical. Be very wary of teachers and influencers who subscribe to this belief.*

STEALING SALARIES (v. 4)

- “Behold” indicates the _____ of this issue.
 - Why is this sin so severe?
 - _____
 -
 - Jer. 22:13
- “Pay of the laborers...withheld by you...cries out against you”
 - The pay the wicked rich has withheld from the laborers is yet another piece of _____ against them.
- God has listened to those who did not receive pay.
 - This should _____ the wicked rich.
 - “Sabaoth” is a Greek word that comes from a Hebrew word meaning “hosts” or “armies.”
 - “Lord of Sabaoth” describes God as a _____.

SELF-INDULGENT SPENDING (v. 5)

- “lived luxuriously”
 - The Greek word is *truphaō* which comes from the noun meaning _____.
 - In context, this luxurious living is at the _____.

- We see a motive of comfort.
 - Motives drive our _____.
- “wanton pleasure”
 - The Greek word is *spatalaō*. It gives the connotation of giving oneself _____ over to the _____ of pleasure.
 - What may be the result if someone lives a life void of self-denial?
- “fattened your hearts”
 - Ecclesiastes 2:4-10
 - Verse 11 indicates the _____ of selfish indulgence.
- “slaughter”
 - This is an extended metaphor: If you have fattened your heart with _____, then you have prepared yourself for your day of _____ (slaughter).

KILLING TO KEEP (v. 6)

- The Greek word *katadikazō* literally means _____.
 - The wicked rich will _____ to maintain their wealth and lifestyle.
- “righteous man”
 - This person had done nothing to warrant the condemnation from the wicked rich.
 - They lived out Matt. 5:39-42.

CONCLUSION

- *Wealth is a heavy responsibility. Wealthy believers may not struggle with financial security, but they face different battles than those who are not wealthy.*
 - *They have to constantly check their motives with their money and see if they are doing right by it.*