



Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!
September 14, 2025 – The Book of James
Closing the Gap by always being humble and generous!

James 5:1-6

¹Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

²Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.

³Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

⁴Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

⁵You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

⁶You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Matthew 19:23

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:22

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters for you will either hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Psalms 37:21, the righteous is generous and gives

Proverbs 14:21, blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

Proverbs 14:31, he who is generous to the needy honors Him.

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Who are then rich?

Unrighteous, non-Christian land and business owners.

Weep and howl because the Lord's judgment on you is coming! (1)
Four miseries...

1. the disintegration of your possessions (2-3)

2. your workers are crying out to the Lord for stolen wages (4)

3. you've lived a life of self-indulgence (5)

4. you condemned helpless people in your pursuit of wealth (6)

-- Be doers of the word who act, and not hearers only --

1. To the unrighteous rich: weep and howl!

> the Lord hates and judges evil gain and exploiting the poor!

James 5:1-6

Psalms 97:10 "O you who love the LORD, hate evil!"

2. To the exploited: cry out to God!

> He hears and is working! James 5:4

> sin reigns only for a season – God judges! James 5:4-5; Psalms 73:1,17

3. To His children: beware of the snare of riches!

James 5:1-6

1) Riches can build pride!

James 2:6; 4:6-10

2) Riches can draw your heart away from the Lord!

Matthew 6:22,24

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose!" Jim Elliot

3) Riches are a gift from the Lord: Be thankful! Be generous!

Sidebar: James 1:5; Ps. 37:21; Proverbs 14:21,31; 2 Cor. 9:11; 1 Tim. 6:18

Application questions on the back →

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SUNDAY after church...

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

MONDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** We in our world many areas where the poor are exploited by the rich or powerful. When it is on the other side of the world, it is easy to disregard. Yet exploitation comes in many ways. James 5:1-6 teaches us that God sees and is/will judge. Does that make us feel that we're off the hook then for noticing? **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** There are many ways that riches can build pride in us. Write out how this happens in your life. Can a small amount of money build pride? How can it do that? Why does the amount not matter? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

WEDNESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Jesus teaches that money can draw you away from Him. Meditate the Matthew verses on the front and write out how and why money can draw you away from the Lord. **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Instead of defrauding people to our own gain, write out how your riches (however much or little) can propel you towards gratefulness. Write out how you can be more generous with your riches. **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

Prepare your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.