

**James 5:1–6 (ESV)** *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your 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. 4 Behold, 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. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

### **Together we Steward.**

Think of top 4 or 5 of your prized possessions.

Do you believe those things belong to you or belong to God?

Do you live your life under the practice of ownership or stewardship?

**Psalms 24:1–2 (ESV)** *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

**Romans 1:4–6 (ESV)** *and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to **belong** to Jesus Christ,*

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)** *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

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

Their identity is rich, not brothers here. These people are lost, ungodly rich people.

It is not a sin to be wealthy.

RICH	POOR
<b>GODLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barnabus</li> <li>- Joseph of Aramathia</li> <li>- Abraham</li> <li>- David</li> </ul>	<b>GODLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lady with two mites</li> <li>- Paul</li> </ul>
<b>UNGODLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Herod</li> <li>- Rich Young Ruler</li> </ul>	<b>UNGODLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sluggard in Proverbs</li> </ul>

James is speaking of the final judgment and eternal damnation.

### **1. The ungodly stockpile their possessions but the godly share their possessions.**

**Vs 2-3** *Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your 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.*

Self Storage Facilities: At year-end 1984 there were 6,601 facilities with 289.7 million square feet of rentable self storage in the U.S. At year end 2017, there are 52,000 “primary” self storage facilities representing 2.3 billion square feet. Approximately 25 billion dollars to store our stuff. National film industry and national music industry are 28 billion making self storage a higher revenue source than the movie and music industry combined.

You can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.

**Mat 6:19-21 (MSG)** *Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.*

### **2. The ungodly hustle people but the godly honor people**

**Vs 4** *Behold, 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.*

Ivan Cupote Acts 29 planter in Ecuador.

The Lord of hosts means Yahweh of the Sabbath - it is a military description of God and his army. 282 times in the OT It depicts God as divine warrior, divine king, commander of the army of all armies both cosmically and earthly. The Lord of Hosts is the most supreme warrior and commander.

**Joshua 5:13–15 (ESV)** *When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” 14 And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” 15 And the commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.*

For the ungodly who scam, hustle, manipulate, cheat, defraud the poor, especially the godly poor, the Lord of Hosts should make you shake with fear and trepidation.

For the godly, when you are defrauded, your response is to let vengeance come from the Lord of Hosts, fall down and worship, declare He is holy and believe, “now I have come.”

Jesus is rewarding to the undeserving. He gives rewards - he pays us what we don’t deserve,

### **3. The ungodly are greedy but the godly are generous**

**V5** *You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*

One of the biggest obstacles to our generosity is misbelieving we are poor when in fact we are rich. We think we can’t afford to be generous, but the truth is we can’t afford not to be generous.

### **4. The ungodly are ruthless (merciless) but the godly are meek.**

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

He does not resist because God the judge will take vengeance.

Because I am not my own, I don’t have to take vengeance on others.