

## PART 10 HANDOUT James 5:1-6 MONEY TALKS

We come today to James 5, where we'll hear a Stinging Indictment Upon Unrighteous Rich People. James has been preaching in the first 4 chapters but now As a commentator puts it, "James' Words are, to Be Blunt, Blunt....BLUNT" **READ JAMES 5:1-6**

- James 5:1-6 delivers a Strong Warning to the Wealthy, Highlighting the Dangers of Misplaced Trust in Riches and the Potential Judgment Due to their Ungodly Actions. It Condemns the Abuse of Wealth, Particularly When it Leads to Oppression of the Poor and a Lack of Concern for Others.
- True Security and Treasure Lie NOT in Material Possessions, But in Storing Up Riches in Heaven.

Vs 1. Sets a Somber Tone, Foreshadowing the judgment Awaiting those who have abused their wealth.

Vs 2. Emphasizes the futility of placing our Trust in material possessions, as they will eventually decay.

Vs 3. Highlights the Injustice and Oppression Faced by the Poor at the Hands of the Wealthy.

Vs 4. The Lord hears the cries of the wages you held back from others.

Vs 5. The Lavish Lifestyle of the Wealthy has caused them to Not Care for the Struggles of Others.

**James 5:1-6 Serves As a Powerful Reminder that TRUE Wealth is NOT Measured by Material Possessions, BUT by Spiritual Riches and Generosity Toward Others.**

- James Challenges the Wealthy to Examine Their Hearts and Actions, and to *Turn Away from Greed*,

POINT: James Did Not Say it was a Sin to be Rich. After all, Abraham was a Wealthy man yet he Walked with God and was Greatly Used of God to Bless the Whole World.

- **James Gives Us 3 Reasons for Exhorting the Selfishness of the Rich.**

VS 4 & 6 The Way They Got Their Wealth: The Bible does Not discourage the acquiring of Wealth. But their are Specific Rules Laid Down, for Getting and Securing Wealth.

- VS 4 **Holding back Wages:** Laborers were hired and paid by the day and did not have any legal contracts with their employers. Matt 20:1-6 explains the system in that day.
- God Gave Definite Instructions Concerning the Laborer in Order to Protect him from the Oppressive Employer. **Deut 24:14, 15; Leviticus 19, Jeremiah 22:13**
- The Verb, Failed to Pay or "Kept Back" in the Greek indicates, the Laborers Never Will Get Paid.

VS 6 Controlling the Courts: Often those who have wealth have political power and can get what they want.

- When God established Israel, he gave the people a system of courts. Exodus warned the Judges to Not be Greedy. Leviticus They were Not to be Partial to the Rich of the poor. Isaiah 33 Bribery was condemned by the Lord. Amos 5: Denounced the Judges who Took Bribes and fixed cases.
- **The Courts in James day were Apparently Easy to Control If You had Enough Money...Poor workers couldn't afford expensive lawsuits, so they were beaten each time.**

**God Owns All Wealth Ps 50. He permits Us to be Stewards of His Wealth for His Glory**

- Proverbs 10 says, Wealth Obtained by Fraud Dwindles, But the One who Gathers by Labor Increases it. Proverbs 23 It is the Hand of the Diligent that Makes Rich Matt 6:33 "As We Put God First in Our Lives, He Will See To It that We Always Have All that We Need."

**The Issue:** Instead of Laying Up Treasures in Heaven by Using Their Wealth for God's Glory, They Were Selfishly, Guarding it For Their Own Security and Pleasure.

- Interestingly>>>Not more than 10 years after James wrote this letter, Jerusalem Fell to the Romans, and All this Accumulated Wealth Was Taken From Them.

### **Let's Look Closer at The Point James Makes, *About Laying Up Treasures in Heaven.***

- First, James Did Not Mean that We Should Sell Everything and Give to the Poor as Jesus Instructed the Rich Young Ruler. *Jesus Spoke that Way to the Rich Ruler Because Covetousness was the Young Man's Besetting Sin, and Jesus Wanted to Expose It.*
- To Lay Up Treasures in Heaven Means to ***“Use All That We Have As Stewards Of God's Wealth”***.

### **POINT: You and I May Possess Many Things...BUT WE DO NOT OWN THEM.**

- A Mature Christian Realizes, What we possess & use are merely things, apart from The will of God.
- Point>>>When We Yield to God's Will and Use What He Has Entrusted to Us to Serve Him...Then Things Become Treasures...And We Invest in Eternity. *Everything We Do On Earth is Recorded in Heaven...The Way I See It Is...God Keeps the Books and Pays US Interest.*
- **It Is Good To Have Riches In Your Hand...Provided They Do NOT Get Into Your Heart!**

VS 5: All of Us are Grateful for the Good Things in Life...But We Recognize the Fact that There is a Point of Diminishing Returns. **Luke 12:15.**

- James Point: There is a Great Difference Between Enjoying what God has Given Us and Living Extravagantly on What We have Withheld from Others. 1 Timothy 6:17.
- Even if what we have...has been Earned Lawfully, and in the Will of God, We Must Not Waste it On

**KEY: If You Match Character with Wealth, You Can Produce Much Good! BUT If You Match Self-indulgence with Wealth...The Result Is Sin.** *Money, while a morally neutral tool, can become a source of temptation and idolatry if not managed with wisdom focused on God's kingdom.*

- **Money as a Heart Issue:** Financial decisions often reveal a person's true values and priorities. He knew that money could easily become an idol, competing with God for ultimate loyalty.
- **Money as a Test of Faith:** Jesus used money in parables to highlight the importance of faithfulness, stewardship, and generosity.
- **Money and the Kingdom of God:** Jesus encouraged his followers to be wise stewards of their resources, using them to help others and build up God's kingdom.
- **The Dangers of Greed:** Jesus warned how it can lead to spiritual blindness & lack of compassion.
- **A Tool, Not an Idol:** Money is a tool that can be used for good or for ill. *It is morally neutral in itself, but it becomes powerful when it is used to serve God's purposes.*

### **WHAT SHOULD WE AS BELIEVERS LEARN FROM JAMES 5:1-6**

James 5:1-6 Teaches the Believer the Importance of Using Our God-Given Resources Wisely and Justly.

- It emphasizes that “True Riches” are found in Serving God and others, Not in Material Possessions.
- We are Taught of the Importance of Justice and Generosity: Wealth is Not Inherently Evil, But the Way it is Acquired and Used Can Be.
- Christians should be mindful of the poor and oppressed. Use their resources to help those in need.

**We are Encouraged that Wisdom is to Focus on Eternal Values:** We're Reminded that Material Wealth is Fleeting and that True Treasure is Stored in Heaven. We are Encouraged to Prioritize Spiritual Riches Over Material Possessions and to Live With An Eternal Perspective.

Ultimately, In these Verses James is Calling Christians to Use their Resources to Glorify God and Bless Others, Rather than Pursuing Selfish Gain.

It Is About Living a Life of Integrity: Christians should be Honest in their Dealings and Avoid Oppressing Others for Personal Gain...Reflecting the Character of Christ.

**“LIFE” POINT: How I Steward My Wealth Reveals My Spiritual Health.**