

HOW TO LIVE LIKE JESUS
The Peril of Wealth
James 5:1-6
Week 11 August 28, 2022
Pastor Mike Popovich

Wealth is ultimately worthless to you.

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. James 5:1 NIV

The **misery** James refers to is the coming judgment we all will face.

This warning is given throughout scripture. It appears the desire for wealth is universal among all peoples.

Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Isaiah 13:6 NIV

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10 NIV

“What do you treasure?”

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21 NIV

James levels four charges against the rich:

1. You are hoarding your wealth
2. You are withholding earned wages
3. You are living a life of luxury and indulgence
4. You murder innocent men

HOARDING WEALTH

Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.
James 5:2-3 NIV

Making riches your god is a testimony against you.

Belief in Jesus is the only way forward into eternity.

BE HONEST IN BUSINESS

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. James 5:4 NIV

God hears the cries of the people and will judge us for how we do our business.

We believe that if we are a faithful conduit of the resources God trusts us with then He will continue to use us in this way.

LIVING IT UP NOW, PAY LATER

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. James 5:5 NIV

If we spend it all on ourselves then we have received our reward.

I knew that if I abused their gifts and did not remain grateful for all they did God would take it away from me.

Selfishness always leads to destruction of the soul.

THE MURDER OF INNOCENT MEN

You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. James 5:6 NIV

James is talking about the men the religious leaders have killed.
Jesus, Stephen, and James the son of Zebedee.

Their selfish action and killing of innocent men did nothing to preserve their culture.

Where is the focus your heart?
What treasure are you focused on?
If you put God first He will give you the best gifts.