

Our Attitude Towards Money and People

July 24, 2022 | Deep End Faith | James 5:1-6 | Dr. Todd Beall

Introduction: A Clash of Worldviews

Main Idea: misusing wealth and power brings God's _____

Note: This passage **doesn't** say that being rich is _____
(1 Tim 6:10; see examples of Abraham, Job, Solomon [early], Joseph of Arimathea)

1. _____ of God's judgment against the selfish rich (v.1)
 - i. similar to OT prophets (see Isa 10:1-4; Amos 4:1-3; 8:4-10; Micah 2:1-5)
2. _____ of God's judgment against the selfish rich (vv. 2-3; see Matt 6:19-21)
 - i. What are the last days? (v. 3b)
3. Detailed _____ against the selfish rich (vv. 3b-6)
 - a. _____ riches (v. 3b; see Matt 6:19-21; Luke 12:16-34)
 - b. Making money _____ (v. 4; see Lev 19:13; Jer 22:13-17)
 - i. the Lord of Sabaoth: a note of judgment (v. 4b; see Gen 4:10; Isa 5:8-9)
 - c. Pursuing a lifestyle of _____ (v. 5; see Luke 12:19; 15:13; 16:19; Matt 13:22; Ezek 16:49)
 - i. another note of judgment (v. 5b; see Jer 12:3)
 - d. Executing unfair judgment against the _____ (v. 6; see Matt 5:39)

Application: we should do the opposite!

1. Lay up treasures _____ (Matt 6:19-21)
2. Treat people _____; never use them _____ (see Jer 22:15-16)
3. Use wealth to _____, not _____ ourselves (1 Tim 6:17-19)
4. Help and encourage the _____ (especially believers—see Gal 6:9-10)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you consider yourself to be rich? Why or why not?
- Would your answer to question 1 be different if, for example, you lived in Nigeria? Elsewhere? How would you compare your income level to the people James was addressing in his day?
- Read the OT passages from the Prophets mentioned above (Isa 10:1-4; Amos 4:1-3; 8:4-10; Micah 2:1-5). These are only a few of the OT passages that speak of mistreatment of the poor. Why did the Prophets spend so much time on this subject? What does it say about the condition of our heart?
- Read Matt 25:31-46 and explain its relevance to our treatment of people today.
- If you knew you were going to die in 6 months, how would your spending change?
- James often presents teachings that the Lord gave in the Sermon on the Mount. Discuss the relevance of Matt 6:19-34 to today's passage. How can we determine if we are laying up treasures in heaven or on earth?
- Which areas touched on in today's message are most difficult for you? Building up your wealth (fear of not having enough) more than giving to others? Spending money somewhat self-indulgently rather than giving more to the Lord's work? Treating people kindly and fairly? Something else? What changes do you plan to implement?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and 17-19. How does this passage reinforce the points in today's message?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Read The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn (it's short but jam-packed with great biblical principles on money)
- If you haven't already done so, make an estimated monthly budget. How much goes to various forms of entertainment? How much goes towards the Lord's work? Does your budget reflect where your heart is? Do some changes need to be made?