

**JAMES**  
**The Ungodly Misuse of Wealth**  
**James 5:1-6**  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

“God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.”  
Baptist Faith & Message 2000

“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20 (ESV)

“Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” James 4:14 (ESV)

**The Condemning of the Rich (v. 1)**

**<sup>1</sup> Come now,**

**you rich,**

**weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.**

And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” Matthew 19:23-24 (ESV)

**The Rich Hoarded their Wealth and used it for their own Selfish Purposes (vv. 2-3)**

**<sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> 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.**

<sup>6</sup>Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. <sup>7</sup>Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, <sup>8</sup>she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. <sup>9</sup>How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? <sup>10</sup>A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup>and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.” Proverbs 6:6-11 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust<sup>[e]</sup> destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> [Jesus] said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”<sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’ <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:15-21 (ESV)

#### **The Rich Cheated their Workers of their Pay (v. 4)**

**<sup>4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you,**

“I will draw near to you for judgment.... against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages.” Malachi 3:5 (ESV)

“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.” Leviticus 19:13 (ESV)

“You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin.” Deuteronomy 24:15 (ESV)

**and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.**

#### **The Rich Lived a Self-Indulgent Lifestyle (v. 5)**

**<sup>5</sup> You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence.**

**You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.**

#### **The Rich Oppressed the Righteous (v. 6)**

**<sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”**

## **APPLICATION**

### **What am I living for?**

“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:10, 12 (ESV)

“Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.” C.T. Studd

### **What are my finances being used for?**

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully<sup>[d]</sup> will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency<sup>[e]</sup> in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (ESV)

**Remember the why: It’s all for Jesus.**