



WEALTH AND WARNING

WEEK 7 | VINCE GIORDANO

James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 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. 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. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Old Testament prophets communicated not only God's words, but also His feelings through their strong language.

James was not speaking to Christians. His words are a judgment on the rich unbelievers oppressing the Christians of his day.

→ This judgment to unbelievers serves as a **warning to Christians.**

James 5:1

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

Warning: Riches are dangerous, and God's judgment is real.

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

- Riches, in and of themselves, are not evil, but money brings temptations:
 - › Matthew 19:23
 - › Mark 4:19

Question: Do I determine whether I am wealthy by comparing myself to those who have just a little more than I do?

We are not called to measure ourselves to the people just in front of us. **We are called to submit to our Lord above us.**

James 5:2-3

Your riches have rotted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 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.

- James was condemning **accumulation without activation.**

Silver and gold don't corrode. But when it comes to eternity, even corruptible commodities are destined to perish.

- **CSB Study Notes**

As Christians we are called to leverage our wealth for eternal treasure.

- Wealth is a tool for God's glory, not an asset to be hoarded for my pleasure.

Example: Deep + Wide giving last year helped bring about **220 students** to Surf City this summer, where they experienced the gospel.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Question: Lord, this money is yours. What do you want me to do with my paycheck this week/month?

James 5:4

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.

James 5:5

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

James' reference to luxurious living is very descriptive in its literal rendering: "You have lived delicately"—a soft, pampered life."

- R. Kent Hughes

Warning: Love of luxury and self-indulgence leads to a multitude of sins.

Question: Where might I be tempted to always want more?

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...

Overindulgence takes away urgency effectiveness, sensitivity, responsiveness to the voice of God.

Could the incessant search for the deal actually be overindulgence in disguise?

Question: Do I think might life would be better if I just had _____?

Take Care of Our Hearts

1. The standard of our stewardship of our wealth is Christ.
2. Wealth is a tool to be leveraged, not an asset to be hoarded.
3. Build mixed community.
 - a. We gain perspective from others in different wealth brackets.

4. Get eternity burned into our eyeballs.
 - a. Doesn't mean we don't enjoy the wealth the Lord has blessed us with, but the greater enjoyment comes when we use it for the Kingdom.

→ Eternal perspective understands we are already rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

→ We lack no resource because God is our provider.

Question: If I trust God with my salvation—with raising me from the dead—can I trust Him with my paycheck?

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither.

- *C.S. Lewis*

The judgment upon the unbelieving rich is the same judgment Jesus took for us.

Judgment is actually a sign of God's grace.

→ God uses the prophets to declare judgment so that the people might turn back to Him.

