

Studies In The Book James

Faith In Action!

Lesson 21

Read James 5:1 – 6

Introduction: *James proclaims the worthlessness of riches, not the worthlessness of the rich. Today's money will be worthless when Christ returns, so we should spend our time accumulating the kind of treasures that will be worthwhile in God's eternal Kingdom. Money is not the problem; Christian leaders need money to live and to support their families; missionaries need money to help them spread the Good News; churches need to do their work effectively. It is the love of money that leads to evil (1 Timothy 6:10) and causes some people to oppress others in order to get more. This is a warning to all Christians who are tempted to adopt worldly standards rather than God's standards.*

Life Application Study Bible

1. What did James say was going to come on those who are rich because of their love for money and corrupt practices according to James 5:1?
 - What wisdom do we receive from Proverbs 11:28?
 - In the Book of Revelation we are told of the destruction of the world system (Babylon) collapsing and coming to ruin. How is this described in Revelation 18:1–18 and what can we learn from such sudden destruction?
 - What did Jesus say to the rich young ruler about inheriting eternal life in Luke 18:18 – 27? And what was the final conclusion?

2. According to James 5:2–3 what will happen to the material possessions and the riches of the wealthy?

- What is the contrast given in Matthew 6:19–24 about the way we handle what God has given to us?

- According to Luke 16:10–13 what does it mean to be faithful in what God has given to us?

- What did Jesus say to the Pharisees who were lovers of money in Luke 16:14 – 15?

- According to James 5:3 what will their riches do for them when they stand before the Lord?

3. What were the crimes of the wealthy against the people according to James 4 – 6? (Read NLT) How do you see this happening today?

- What does the Word of God say concerning treatment of a servant (we would say employee) according to Deuteronomy 24:14 – 15?

- What do the following Scriptures teach us about the way we treat the poor?
 - Leviticus 25:35 – 43

 - Deuteronomy 15:7 – 11

 - Psalms 41:1 – 3

 - Proverbs 14:20 – 21, 31

- 4. There is nothing wrong with being wealthy as long as we are rich towards God. Solomon was given great wealth and wisdom but he did not keep his eyes on the Lord. What did Solomon try to satisfy the emptiness in his heart with and what was his conclusion according to Ecclesiastes 2:3 – 11?
 - What do we learn from Proverbs 23: 2 – 5?

- 5. What understanding do we come to about being rich or poor In James 2:5 and 1 Timothy 6:17 – 19?