

Studies In The Book James Faith In Action!

Lesson 4

Read James 1:9 – 11

Introduction: *“The poor should be glad that riches mean nothing to God; otherwise these people would be considered unworthy. The rich should be glad that money means nothing to God because money is easily lost. We find true wealth by developing our spiritual life, not by developing our financial assets. God is interested in what will last, our souls not in what is temporary, our money and possessions. What you have in your heart, not in your bank account, matters to God and endures for eternity.”*

Life Application Study Bible

1. If wealth, power, and status mean nothing to God, why do we attribute so much importance to them, and so much honor to those who possess them?
 - Do your material possessions give you satisfaction and your reason for living? If they were gone, what would be left?

 - What did Jesus say to the rich man who had everything according to Luke 12:15 – 21?

 - What important lessons can we learn from Proverbs 23:3 – 5?

We all like having material possessions to make life easier. We all like living comfortably being able to pay our mortgage, rent and bills. It is not a shame to be poor or to have honor in being rich. In God's kingdom there is not rich, or poor but we are all one in Christ. The question we need to ask ourselves is this; are my possessions possessing me or do I possess my possessions?

2. Why would the *lowly brother glory in his exaltation* and the *rich in his humiliation*? (Compare with 2 Corinthians 8:9 and James 2:5)

- According to Proverbs 22:1 – 4 what should I be seeking after?
 - What do the rich and the poor have in common?
 - According to Proverbs 22:4 how can I have *riches and honor and life*?

3. What lessons can we learn from the story of the rich young ruler Jesus told in Luke 18:18 – 27?

- What warning does Jesus give us in Matthew 13:22?
- According to Matthew 6:19 – 21 where is the best place to store my treasures? (Compare with 1 Corinthians 3: 11 – 15)
- According to Matthew 6:21 where is your heart today? (Compare with Colossians 3:1 – 4, 16)

4. What understanding is given to the rich in James 1:10 – 11?
- According to 1Timothy 6:17 – 19 what exhortation does the apostle Paul give to *those who are rich in the present age*?
 - What does the Lord say to the wise, mighty and rich man in Jeremiah 9:23 – 24?
5. According to Matthew 6:3 and Isaiah 66:1 – 2 what should be the attitude and position of my heart whether I am rich or poor?