

# *Faith in Action*

## *Money Talks....About You*

### *James 5:1-6*

#### **How Did You Get Rich?**

**James 5:1, 4, and 6 (KJV) <sup>1</sup> Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you..... <sup>4</sup> Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.... <sup>6</sup> Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.**

- James is continuing in his literally to believers scattered around the world
- James is issuing a warning to the rich, the wealthy about the ways they are handling their wealth
- Wealth is relative
- The key point is not whether we possess money or not, but whether or not we are “possessed” by money and material things
- Being rich or wealthy is not a sin
- James is not talking about those were are godly and wealthy; here’s writing to *wicked, evil rich*
- Money in and of itself is not sinful, it’s *the love of money* that causes the problems in our lives **1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV) 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**
- We will do anything to get money, including sin, and the consequences are painful
- James says the way we handle our money can bring many miseries (i.e., troubles, sorrows)
- James tells the rich to weep and groan over miseries that are *coming* on them because they hoard and misuse their riches
- *Hoarding and misuse* of your money can lead to all types of miseries and troubles (i.e., emptiness, loneliness, insecurity)
- In addition to hoarding, James talks about other ways we acquire money
- Verse 4 says we can acquire money through *dishonest* means
- James describes a rich person who has hired people to do mow the fields and then does not pay them
- That is cheating and defrauding the workers of the pay their for the work they performed
- But when we cheat others to get money, God hears *the cries* of those we’ve cheated
- Defrauding others did not escape the ears of God
- Another way the rich get wealthy is through the legal system
- Verse 6 says, **6 “Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.”**
- The word *condemned* here means to pronounce as *guilty*

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- James is telling us that the rich will use the court system to avoid financial responsibility or to try to keep people from getting what is rightfully belongs to them
- The rich can use the court system to harass a person to give up their rights so they can use your property to make more money
- The person is not only condemned, but they killed the just or the righteous person
- The rich can use the court system to destroy person's reputation, desire to succeed, even their family just to gain more wealth and power

***The Danger of Hoarding Your Wealth***

***James 5:1-3 (KJV) 1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.***

- God does not mind for us to have money, He does not mind for us to have money saved for the future
- God disapproves of us hoarding money and using it to support His work and spreading the gospel
- James tells the wicked rich that they will discover that the money they've hoarded will not last
- The wicked rich will discover their wealth will be:
  - Corrupted or rotten
  - Moth-eaten
  - Cankered or rusted - rusted metal has little to no value
  - Even though gold and silver do not rust, they do tarnish and get covered with dirt and will eventually wear away
- If our wealth is hoarded, it's useless
- The wealth will never be used to contribute in *this generation* or the next
- Hoarded wealth will eventually testify against us
- Hoarding our wealth and not using it for godly causes will witness or testify against while we are still on earth, but our hoarding will also testify against us in the day of judgment
- If we hoard our money, the desire, the passion to hoard more will burn within us
- We'll have an insatiable desire for more and more money and material things
- The wealth we store up now will be a treasure heaped us against in the last days
- In the day of judgement, we will have to give an account of ourselves before God
- If we've been hoarding our wealth for ourselves, it will become *treasures of wrath* against us in the day of judgment

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***The Danger of Selfishness***

***<sup>5</sup> Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.***

- Another way the wicked rich abuse their wealth is self-gratification.
- They want to live a life of luxury, pleasure, gratification
- The danger of living selfish life is we forget God and we're oblivious of the needs around where our wealth could make a difference
- When focus on nothing but on the luxuries and pleasures of life, we fattening ourselves up and speeding up our own judgment

***What Should We Do?***

1. Examine your repent of the hoarding attitude
  - a. Take a look and your bank account, it will give you an accurate picture of what your financial values are ***Luke 12:34 (KJV) 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***
2. Remind yourself that God owns it all ***Psalms 24:1 (KJV) The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.***
3. Remember that God is the source of everything you have ***1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT) "... Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!"***
4. Support God's work through tithes and offerings to your local church where you are spiritually fed ***Malachi 3:10 (KJV) 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***