

James 5:1-6

The Problem of with Stuff

The danger of misguided affections ...

I. Indictable Abuses

- A. Rich Oppressors
- B. Their Crimes
- C. And Condemnation

II. Inordinate Love

- A. Nature
- B. Distraction
- C. Destruction

III. Inevitable Conflict

- A. Appreciation
- B. Perspective
- C. Pursuit

... a new passion for things that last.

Children, Listen ...

1. What is more important to you than anything in this world?
2. When you came into this world ... what did you bring with you?
3. When you leave this world ... what will you bring with you?
4. People may work hard for things, but who provides for us all that we have?
5. How will Jesus' words help you as you grow up? "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24

Packing for Heaven?

The people James addresses in our text were obviously entirely out of control and given over to a love of money and power which led to a rejection of God and a hatred of their fellow man. Their current status with God and their prospect for the afterlife was frightful. It is unlikely that any of us are living on that plain of depravity, yet we must all be careful to avoid the kind of thinking that led them to their evil ways. If we love the world and the things of it more than we love the Lord, we are doomed unless we repent. But genuine Christians need to be vigilant too. In other words, we must always keep our worldly possessions and the pursuit of them in perspective. If we belong to Jesus we have embarked on a journey toward heaven. We are to be productive in our life's calling whatever it may be, and it is not wrong to attain the world's goods providing we do so for the right reasons, but we can never allow that to cause us to lose sight of our higher calling and the course our pilgrimage is taking us on. We are pilgrims in this world. One day we will let all of this go – as Job once said: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. Since this is the case a fair question to ask ourselves is "How am I packing for Heaven?" Just some food for thought as you walk the path of the life the Lord has set before you.