



**“The Filthy Rich”**  
The *Low Lifes* of High Society  
James 5:4-6

*Being careful not to misuse our:*

**I. Providers** – “by fraud” (v. 4)

*Rich men can forget that others are :*

- A. **Partners** – “*who have reaped down your fields*”
- B. **People** – “*crieth*”
- C. **Protected** – “*cries...are entered... ears of the Lord*”

**II. Profits** – “you have ” (v. 5)

*Rich men can become :*

- A. **Insensitive** ( Soft Luxury) – “*in pleasure on the earth*”
- B. **Immoral** (Vices) – “*and been wanton*”
- C. **Indulgent** (Hoarding) – “*nourished your hearts*”

**III. Protagonists** – “the just” (v. 6)

*Rich men can abuse the :*

- A. **Courts** – “*condemned the just*”
- B. **Conscientious** -- “*killed the just*”
- C. **Considerate** – “*he doth not resist you*”

**Sentence Sermon:**

***Riches Misused will lead to Lives Abused.***

**Verses on the Corrosive Power of Riches**

**Psalm 62:10**

**Proverbs 15:27**

**Proverbs 18:23**

**Proverbs 23:5**

**Proverbs 27:24**

**Proverbs 28:20**

**Proverbs 30:8-9**

**Proverbs 62:10**

**Matthew 6:19-24**

**Luke 12:13-21** – rich farmer man

**Luke 16:19-31**

**I Timothy 6:6-10** – love of money is root of all evil

**Proper Use of Riches – (SLIDE)**

1. Provide for Your Family – I Timothy 5:8
2. Invest in God’s Work (Church) – Luke 6:38
3. Endeavor to Win the Lost – Luke 16:9; Matthew 6:20
4. Help the Needy – Galatians 2:10; Proverbs 19:17
5. Support Ministers – Galatians 6:6

At the time James was writing, peasants bore the brunt of taxation. There was the temple tax, Roman tribute and taxes for the building programmes of Herod, which Josephus says “Bled the country dry”. Its estimated that the peasants paid 40% of their income in taxes, and the devastating famines of 46-48 AD merely exacerbated these conditions. Josephus describes how the entire population of several towns were sold into slavery because they were late paying their taxes.

#### INTRODUCTION:

Can you think of any rich in the Bible...were they good or bad? (See List)

#### *Rich People of the Bible – (Good or Bad)*

Abram. Ge 13:2

Lot. Ge 13:5,6

Isaac. Ge 26:13,14

Jacob. Ge 32:5,10

Joseph. Ge 45:8,13

Boaz. Ruth 2:1

Barzillai. 2Samuel 19:32

Shunammite. 2Kings 4:8

David. 1Ch 29:28

Solomon I Kings 10:23

Jehoshaphat. 2Chronicles 17:5

Hezekiah. 2Chronicles 32:27-29

Job. Job 1:3

Joseph of Arimathea. Mt 27:57

Zacchaeus. Lu 19:2

Dorcas. Ac 9:36

*Probably James had in mind the rich as a class, not exclusively wealthy believers or wealthy unbelievers.*

### EXEGESIS

#### V. 4

- Behold = Consider the reality
- The hire of the laborers = the amount you paid your help
- Reaped down your fields = helped make you successful
- Kept back by fraud = promised but did not perform
- Crieth = (Krazo) = croak or cry out for vengeance – **compare to verse 5:1**
- And the cries of them = (Boay) – cry
- Enters into the ear of the Lord = God hears and will respond
- Lord of Saboath = head of the armies...of Israel...of Angels

#### v.5

- You have = Now this is what the Lord declares in judgment on you
  - Lived in pleasure = soft life, luxurious

- Been wanton = sought out pleasure...enjoyment, entertainment
- Nourished your hearts = “fattened” - Hoarding
  - *The Bible does not discourage saving, or even investing; but it does condemn hoarding. Hoarding, as used here, means accumulating wealth just to have lots of it, for security, prestige, or just selfishness*
  - Also in preparation for slaughter --

v. 6

- Condemned the just = misused influence to slander others
  - **Compare to James 2:6**
- Killed the just = caused physical harm, hardship, or loss to good people
- Attacked those who do not want a fight = “he does not resist you”

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