

SERMON TAKE HOME- James 5:4-6-Where is your treasure?

V4 Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

- We must not only be careful with how we use our money, but also how we obtain our money
- The scriptures are full of warnings against obtaining money/wealth by unjust means:
 - Leviticus 19:13, Jeremiah 22:13, Proverbs 11:1, Deuteronomy 24:14-15, Proverbs 16:8
 - Is there any area in your life where you are gaining by unjust means?
 - We must work as unto the Lord (Col 3:23) and be above reproach in all we do
- What does James mean when he says “*the wages..... are crying out against you*”? How do wages cry out?
 - Consider Genesis 4:9-10 and see if helps you understand

V5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

- This living is in the present tense, so this is a life-style for this person. As believers, we must not be defined by “living for self”, although we can be tempted in this area.
- The heart here is never content in what they have, they always want nicer, bigger, faster, better.
- If we believe that an increase in income means an increase in comfort, there is a problem.
 - Self is the center of things here (Not Christ, the glory of God, or others)
- *You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*
 - This is a fulfillment of Luke 12:34-If our treasure is “luxury/self-indulgence” our heart is there also.
 - You can’t say “Jesus has my heart, but I love money (our luxury is my treasure). They are mutually exclusive.
- Remember it is the deceitfulness of riches that tries to get our eyes off of Christ. A wise man once shared something that shows the end of the road for those seeking after earthly treasures and self-indulgence.
 - Heed his counsel Ecclesiastes 2:4-11
- The real question is this, “Is Matthew 13:44 a reality in your life/heart?”
 - Is Jesus your treasure, joy, sufficiency?

If we give ourselves over to striving for wealth, and fulfilling our fleshly desires in “luxury & self-indulgence”, the craving and desire for more will stop at nothing, even murder. *V6 have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

- This has gone from defrauding to murder to fulfill the love of money.

How do we battle against the continual onslaught of temptation from the world/satan?

Study and meditate on Luke 12:13-34

- Ask “What sins are discussed in the parable (v22, v32)
- What is the root of the sins regarding money?
- How does Jesus encourage His disciples regarding worry and fear?