



SERMON TAKE HOME-James 5:1-6 Where are you storing up riches?

VI Come now, you rich

- *Come now*-This is an interjection, James is trying to get the attention of his readers, and we need to heed this word
- *Come now you rich*-Do not close your mind to this text if you do not classify yourself as “rich”.
 - The issue James is addressing is not a money issue but a heart issue.
 - You may not have a lot of money but you may be longing for riches (and what they can buy)
 - One brother said, “It is possible to love money without having it and it is possible to have money and not love it”. This is an issue of the heart, not the bank account.
 - It is not wrong to be rich; we do not want to demonize money. The scriptures do NOT teach “Money is the root of all kinds of evil”, but rather “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil”. (1 Timothy 6:10)
 - It isn’t about what you have, but what has you (your heart?)
 - Also consider this, from the worlds perspective we are all rich. The Lord has granted you the money you have, and we will give an account for how we use it (or hoard it).

Come now you rich, weep & howl for the miseries that are coming upon you

- When the blind world thinks of the rich, they think of that being the pinnacle (the goal).
- James warns that if you are rich (and your heart is not right) miseries await you.

Some of us have wasted much of our thought life thinking about being rich. “Oh if I were rich....”

Is it a good desire for a Christian to want to be rich? Consider the following verses and determine if you think it is wise for a believer to long for, desire after, or labor at being rich?

- Proverbs 23:4
- Matthew 13:22
- 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- Matthew 19:23-24

James is not implying that all that are rich have misery awaiting them. In the next few verse James clarifies who among the rich have misery awaiting them:

V2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

- The last accusation is the issue here “*You have laid up treasure in the last days*”. The treasures James is saying they have laid up are the earthly/temporal treasures described in v2 and beginning of v3.
- We see James parallel to the sermon on the mount with this accusation when we consider Matthew 6:19
- Also note that this man’s treasures (which are rotted, moth-eaten, and corroded) will be evidence against this man. They will testify against him that he was storing up temporal treasures, rather than eternal treasures. What would your treasures testify regarding you today?
- Peter warned us in 1 Peter 4:2 how we should spend the rest of our time on the earth. Our passions should not mimic the lost world (which treasures money, and temporal things).
- Do not allow your mind to freely long for wealth and worldly treasures
- Let your life (and your wallet) be defined by a life of advancing the kingdom of God
- We need to be kingdom minded, eternally focused (not deceived by temporal treasures)