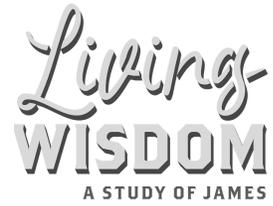


JAMES 5:1-12

November 9-10, 2022



1. Although financial abundance can make life easier in many ways, write down some temptations that can come into our lives as a result of wealth.

2. Read James 5:1-3. How does James confront his wealthy readers in vs. 1?

What words come to mind when you think of someone weeping and howling?

How does the phrase “riches to rags” describe the future of the rich?

Read Matthew 6:19-21. In light of Jesus’ words, how have the wealthy in James 5:1-3 missed the mark?

3. Read James 5:4-5. List the offenses of the wealthy described in these verses.

Read the following verses. Record what these Jewish converts to Christianity would have known.

Leviticus 19:13

Deuteronomy 24:15

Malachi 3:5

4. What words and phrases describe how the wealthy class have lived according to James 5:5?

How does this description challenge you to be more aware of self-indulgence and excess in your life today?

What are some changes you can consider to avoid the temptation of self-indulgence and excess?

5. Read James 5:6. As the behavior of the rich and wealthy progresses from hoarding to withholding wages to self-indulgence, what is the ultimate action of those who will do anything to guard their wealth and sustain their lifestyle?

What evidence do you see of people oppressing others to guard their own wealth and lifestyle in our world today?

6. Read James 5:7-9. Define patience in your own words.

What event does James have in mind as he exhorts patience?

According to James, how is a farmer an example of patience?

7. Does remembering the blessing of Christ's future return motivate you to patiently endure hard people and hard circumstances in life today? Why or why not?

8. What warning does James give to believers as they wait for Christ's return in vs. 9?

Read James 4:11-12 and explain why judging others is a bad choice.

James gives a picture of Jesus waiting at the door of heaven for each of us. How does that picture motivate you to live a life that honors Him today?

9. List everyone who is our example of patience and suffering according to James 5:10-12.

What character traits does James ascribe to Job and the prophets? To the Lord?

Read Job 42:12-13. How is God's mercy and compassion evident at the end of Job's suffering?

10. What instructions are given to Believers in James 5:12?

Write down words that describe the person whose "yes" means yes and "no" means no.

How can our words reveal our impatience and stress during times of hardship and suffering?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

A Final Warning and Exhortation

James 5:1-12

Beware! A Warning to the Wealthy

vv. 1-6

Distress and misery will come to those who depend on their wealth instead of God.

Those who idolize their wealth risk becoming prideful, controlling, and self-satisfied.

Hoarded wealth is evidence of poor stewardship of God's resources.

Greedily cheating workers of their wages defies God's own law.

Omnipotent God hears the cries of poor laborers oppressed by the greed of the wealthy.

James condemns those whose greed causes them to do anything it takes to protect their wealth.

Guard against putting wealth and possessions in place of _____.
Resist the temptation to make _____ a source of pride, security, comfort, or control.
Avoid excess and self-indulgence. Use your extra resources to honor God and do His work.

Be Patient! An Encouragement for Believers

vv. 7-12

James exhorts Believers to focus on the future return of Christ as they endure suffering.

Christ's return is the ultimate reward for those who persevere amid persecution and suffering.

As the Lord's return could happen anytime, Believers should stand steadfast as they wait.

God's prophets and Job exemplify steadfast faith in suffering while waiting for God to act.

James condemns lack of self-control in times of stress that leads to oaths or swearing.

As Believers, a straightforward "yes" or "no" is as trustworthy as a signed legal document.

Let your knowledge of the _____ return of Jesus guide your life today.
Stand steadfast in the face of suffering and persecution.
Take comfort in the _____ and _____ of the Lord as you wait.
Be patient until the Lord comes!

Key: God, money, future, purposes, character

Living Wisdom – James 5:1-12

November 9-10, 2022

1 TIMOTHY 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

MATTHEW 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

MATTHEW 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

LEVITICUS 19:13 “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.”

MARK 13:32-33 “But concerning that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

JOB 42:10, 12a And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before...And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

MATTHEW 5:33-37 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

REVELATION 22:12a “Behold, I am coming soon...”