

WHERE is OUR Treasure? ~ James 5:1-6

→ Scripture Reading - Matt. 6:19-21, 6:24, James 5:1-3

HOARDING Wealth and WASTEFUL Living ~ James 5:1-6

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

James 1:1 (ESV) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

→ James is writing ABOUT wicked wealthy unbelievers not TO them

²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

James may have been using the corrosion of gold and silver as a symbol of the corrosive effects of greed on the human soul. HNT

⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

They have killed them by OVERWORKING and UNDERPAYING them. The innocent had no way to FIGHT Back. To protest might result in further brutality, or the loss of their job. MacDonald

IMPLICATIONS

→ There is a PROPHETIC sense to these verses - Judgment is Coming

Rich non-Christian landowners who were oppressing poor believers would not hear the letter read. But Christian readers would learn from the judgment proclaimed on the rich not to set too high a value on wealth. HNT

James Declared Judgment on the WEALTHY as...

- an ENCOURAGEMENT to Christians who were Suffering
- a WARNING not to ENVY the Wealthy
- a REMINDER God will AVENGE the Injustice

Romans 12:19 (NIV) Do NOT take REVENGE, my friends, but leave room for GOD'S WRATH, for it is written: It is mine to AVENGE; I will repay," says the Lord.

→ There is a Difference between SAVING and HOARDING

Luke 12:15 (NET) ...Watch out and guard yourself from ALL types of GREED, because one's life does not consist in the ABUNDANCE of his possessions.

Antidote to HOARDING LAB

- live SURRENDERED to God
- be Fully aware of God's GRACE
- be sensitive to the NEEDS of others
- keep ETERNITY firmly in view

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

APPLICATION

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

Declaration Against the Wicked who Pursue Wealth...

- at ALL COSTS
- DISHONESTLY
- no matter who they HURT
- IGNORING God completely

He is calling the unrighteous rich to mourn because of what awaits them in the final judgment. Their materialistic focus places them in terrifying peril. PTW

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your TREASURE is, there your Heart WILL BE also.

→You CANNOT Take It WITH You

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) Command those who are rich in this present world NOT TO BE arrogant NOR to put their HOPE in WEALTH, which is so uncertain, but to put their HOPE in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to BE RICH in good deeds, and to BE GENEROUS and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age...

TAKE AWAY ??

Psalms 115:1-8 (NIV) ¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. ² Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" ³ Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. ⁴ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. ⁸ Those who MAKE them will be LIKE them, and so will ALL who TRUST in THEM.

→We become LIKE that which we worship - We become LIKE that over which we OBSESS

We either REVERE the world and are conformed to the sinful patterns of the world, or we REVERE GOD and are progressively conformed into His likeness. T. Reinke

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.