



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 6, 2025 | James 5:1-6 | Jerrod

SUMMARY

Big Idea: What Rules Your Heart, Shapes How You Treat People

Last week, James addressed our calendars. Now, in 5:1-6, he moves to our wallets. Narrowly, it can be argued that James has wealthy unbelievers as the focus of these verses, yet the Christian is not “off the hook.” Such strong judgment language ought to minister to believers in at least 2 ways. First, by bringing assured comfort to those who are being oppressed that God knows, hears, and will one day set things right. Secondly, believers ought to hear in James’ description of motives, desires, impulses, fruit and sure judgment, an invitation to examine ourselves for where these same ingredients are lurking in our own hearts – because what rules your heart, shapes how you treat people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**See Page 2 for 10 Biblical Principles about money/wealth and corresponding questions*

Intro

1. Would you consider yourself to be “rich?” Would you consider it to be a blessing to be rich?
2. Trivia. To be in the top 1% of income earners worldwide, how much money per year would you have to make? (Answer: \$30k)

Read James 5:1-6

3. Who and What is James’ concern?
 - a. What is James NOT condemning? Why is that important to keep in mind?

In the “James for You” study, Sam Alberry highlights 3 areas of concern these verses address.

Area 1: Hoarding

4. Where do you see hoarding as the issue in verses 2-3?
5. Where do you see the mentality of hoarding in your own heart?
6. What truth does James give that should awaken us out of our hoarding?

Area 2: Injustice

7. Where do you see injustice show itself in verses 4 and 6?
8. Where do you see a tendency, or potential opportunity, in your own life and heart that would lead you down this road?
9. What truth does James give us to call us out of this?

Area 3: Extravagance (self-indulgence)

10. Where do you see this in verse 5?
11. Where do you see extravagance and self-indulgence in your own life?
12. What standard, or according to what measure do you discern this?
13. What truth does James give to facilitate our “putting off” of self-indulgence?

Closing: What ought to be our disposition toward wealth and money? Why does God give it?

- How does this teaching highlight the gospel?
- Read Proverbs 30:8-9. How do you sense these tensions in your own life?

10 Biblical Principles about Wealth and Money

1. The Bible does not condemn riches
2. Riches come with real risks
3. Godliness with contentment is true wealth
4. Riches are a gift from God
5. The rich carry real responsibility
6. It's hard for the rich to enter heaven
7. The Bible doesn't demand equal wealth
8. God cares deeply for the poor
9. We must care for the poor too
10. Judgment awaits those who oppress the poor

Read through the 10 above and then ask:

- Which ones do you know? Which ones are you learning?
- Which ones do you find easier to believe on Sunday, but more difficult to live on Monday?
- Which ones are most under attack..
 - ...in our world?
 - ...in prosperity-oriented "churches"?
 - Prosperity = God wants you to be happy, healthy, wealthy, and your faith or lack of faith is ultimately the cause of why you are or are not happy, healthy, and wealthy
 - ...in your own heart?