

Genuine Faith isn't Envious of the Rich and Powerful

James 5:1-6

Day 1 Read James 5:1-6 Caution for Pursuing the Wrong Treasure

1. Materialism says that having and spending, both satisfies and provides security. Why is it that these temptations “**sell**”, but never truly “**satisfy**”? (1 John 2:16, Matt 6:24) _____

2. Which aspect of materialism seems to be the greater struggle for you – **having and hoarding** or **having and spending**? How can these sins affect even those who don't have much? _____

3. You can imagine these 1st century Christians being abused by wealthy landowners. You can also imagine that that the **simple solution** in their minds would be to **trade places** with their rich bosses. Why does this concern James so? (Jas 1:13-16) _____

4. Although we may not be oppressed by rich landowners, how can our tough economic times have similar effects if we give into temptation? What would be the **spiritual results** in the church? (Jas 4:1-4) _____

Day 2 Read James 5:1-6 Consequences for Pursuing the Wrong Treasure

1. In verses 2 and 3, James addresses the absurdity of pursuing earthly treasure. **Contemporize verse 2** (as though you had to express to another) and explain using an example from your own life. _____

2. Remember James is talking to unbelievers whose primary desire is **satisfaction and security**. Explain from an eschatological (**end times**) perspective how our investments aren't accepted as currency by God. (Luke 12:20-21) **What will be accepted?** (1 Tim 6:17, Rom 4:24) _____

3. Side note – Is wealth condemned in the Bible? If not, what is in relation to this subject? (1 Tim 6:9,10) _____

Day 3 Read James 5:1-6 Charges for Pursuing the Wrong Treasure

1. James starts to address the **personal aspect** by talking about the charges brought against these materialistic men. Explain their actions of pursuing the wrong treasure from a **spiritual perspective**. _____

2. Explain the severity of what are they doing to their employees in verse 4. What have they **rationalized** in order to do this? _____

3. Look at verse 5. How do we, **even as Christians**, put our own **comfort above obedience** to our Lord? (Matt 28:19-20, 2 Tim 2:2, 1 Pet 4:10) Give an example of a command we overlook, and the comfort we hold on to. _____

Day 4 Read James 5:1-6 Conclusion

1. Help recognize the **sin of materialism** in your life and seek to kill it. Rewrite in plain terms what we are **really saying to God** when we make the following comments: *(This is a good exercise so that we are not just agreeing theologically but are pursuing holiness in our own lives.)*
 - a. If I just had a few hundred dollars right now, I could get these things fixed, and then I would be happy. _____

 - b. I am all about getting involved more in church, but first I need to build up my savings a bit more in the event something bad happens at work. _____

 - c. I wish I had that new outfit. It would give me the confidence I need.

 - d. I know discipleship is important, but I am so busy at work, I just don't have the time right now. _____

