

Pure Religion
Approaching Hoofbeats – James 5:1-6
May 6, 2018

You have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. - **James 5:5-6**

I. WEEPING AND HOWLING

- In the eyes of the world, riches mean joy and comfort. In the eyes of God, unjust wealth leads only to misery and judgment (vs. 1; Ps. 49:16-20; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Tim. 6:9).
- The joys of wealth are fleeting. Life is a mist, and money perishes with us (Ps. 39:6-11; Ps. 73; Prov. 11:4).
- God calls us to use wealth wisely, and for the benefit not only of ourselves, but of others. When we refuse to do so, it becomes a snare to us that leads to destruction (vs. 3; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 6:10).
- God cares for the poor and brings justice to the weak (Ps. 9:18; 72:12-14; 146:9; Isa. 25:4; Matt. 11:28-29).

II. AN APPROACHING JUDGMENT

- We live in the final days of earth's history. Judgment awaits (1 Tim. 5:24; Heb. 9:27).
- James warns the unrighteous wealthy that God has heard of their hoarding and defrauding, and he is "the Lord of Hosts" (vs. 3-4).

III. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- We must resist the temptation to place our hope in riches (1 Tim. 6:17-19).
- We must care for the truly poor and needy (Ps. 41:1; Amos 5:24; Isa. 58:6-9; Matt. 25:41-46).
- We must not let riches choke out our faith (Matt. 13:22).
- We must store up our riches not here, but in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21).
- We must be found watchful and ready (Matt. 24:42-43, 25:13; Mark 13:37).
- We must watch and pray (Mark 14:38).
- We must recognize that this life is temporary, and eternity is forever (James 4:14; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Heb. 13:13).

KNOW: Judgment awaits for those who willfully reject the Savior and instead place their hope in riches in the last days.

DO: Practice humility, self-sacrifice, and generosity.

Recommended Reading:

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #332 ALC)

A Generous Justice by Tim Keller (LifePoint Library #261 KEL)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 5:1-6

1. What is James's primary concern with those who are wealthy?
2. What awaits the unjust wealthy in eternity (or sooner)?
3. Is it a sin to be wealthy? Explain your answer please.
4. How do you see yourself in this passage? Do you find that you are guilty of any of James's charges?
5. What is James calling the rich to do?
6. What becomes of our worldly wealth? What should we do about that? (see Matt. 6:19-21)
7. What did you hear in James's rebuke that you can learn from this week?