

PRESSURE POINTS: What Does Rich Look Like?

Andy Deane · 10/27/2024 · James 5:1-6

James 5:1-6, 1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold & silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

PRINCIPLES ON WEALTH FROM JAMES 5:1-6

Wealth can be a tool for good or a trap that consumes.

- [Proverbs 10:22](#) - God gives wealth to His people as a blessing.
- [1 Timothy 6:18](#) - God gives wealth so that we can in turn bless others.
- [Matthew 19:21-26](#) - Yet there are added difficulties for the rich (like the deceitfulness of money).

When pleasure becomes excess, it turns into sin.

- [1 Timothy 6:17b](#) - God wants us to enjoy the blessings He has given us.
- The problem is that over-indulgence causes us to lose capacity and passion for helping the less fortunate.

Hoarding money is not the same as wisely saving.

- The Bible instructs us to budget, give, save, invest, but not to hoard.
- Jesus warned about greed & hoarding in [Luke 12:13-21](#).

Wealth doesn't offer the lasting security we assume it does.

- [Proverbs 11:28](#) - Scripture warns us to not trust in riches.
- [1 Timothy 6:17a](#) - We get to choose if we put our trust in uncertain riches, or in a faithful God.

A love for money often leads us into deeper sins.

- [Proverbs 16:8](#) - Making money appropriately is something God cares a lot about.
- [Malachi 3:7-11](#) - Withholding from God leads to a surprise sin: robbing God!

Don't silence the Spirit's conviction about your money.

- Don't ignore moments of compassion or spontaneous generosity this week.
- [1 John 3:17](#) - True believers will respond to real needs, secretly.

Without Jesus as our main love, the future brings fear.

- Money functions as a test for what we truly love. Our receipts show us what we love: [Matthew 6:19](#)
- [Luke 16:19-31](#) - The "rich" man who ignored Lazarus in this story paid for it!

We're running out of time to invest in God's work.

- "In the last days" speaks of Jesus coming back as a thief in the night!
- James references that, or our limited time on earth, or a missed opportunity for generosity. Don't miss it!

HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS PRACTICALLY?

- 15% of Jesus' teaching are about money, but only 7% of the sermons at Cornerstone are, so don't panic :)
- Scripture shows this reaction for new believers: they fall in love with Jesus because of His sacrifice on the cross, they cheerfully support God's work through the church, & spontaneously meet needs of others as they are able.
- Text [RAMSEY](#) to (951)425-4425 to sign up for RAMSEY+ that includes: Financial Peace University (on demand), the EveryDollar budgeting app, the SmartTax app and online group financial coaching. The average household pays off \$5,300 worth of debt and saves \$2,700 in emergency savings - all within 90 days!
- Text [GIVE](#) to (951)425-4425 to give for the first time, automate your giving, or begin tithing 10% of your income.
- [Hebrews 13:5](#) - We can be content with what God allows us to keep because Jesus is present with us daily!