

JAMES (5:1-7)

Lesson 22: The Problem with Riches (Part 1)

5 June 2020

1 Tim 6:6-10 It's not sinful to have money. It is sinful to love money (vs 10). If your life's goal is to be rich, you are headed for a fall (vs 9, James 5:1, **Prov 11:28**) into temptation, a snare, and many foolish and hurtful lusts.

- If you love money, you are devoted to a material possession that cannot satisfy (Eccl 5:10, Ezek 7:19).
- Only Jesus Christ can truly satisfy the longing and desire of your heart (Psalm 17:15, 37:19-20, 107:9, Proverbs 19:23, Jer 31:14).
- The Lord satisfies whether you are in poverty or wealth (Phil 4:11-13).
- The love of money will lead you away from the faith (vs 10). It will ruin your Christian walk. We must learn to be content with what God has given us (vs 8, Heb 13:5).

Luke 6:24-26 “Woe (grief, sorrow, misery) unto you that are rich!” Why? “For ye have received your consolation.” Your love for riches will cause you to reject the Lord and miss eternal life. Your temporal earthly riches are the only good you will ever know. You will lose those riches and comforts when you die.

- Today you may have everything money can buy. Don't let those things cause you to forego the things that money can't buy.
- Your riches may cause men to flatter you and treat you well today. Remember that is temporary. In the lake of fire, you will have no friends for eternity.

Jer 9:23-24 What do you glory in? Your wisdom? Your might? Your riches? The Lord says, Don't. You ought to glory in the privilege of understanding and knowing the Lord. If you have that, whether rich or poor, strong or weak, wise or simple, you have something to rejoice about.

- The Lord delights to exercise love, judgment, and righteousness toward you. These are things that money can't do for you.

Luke 16:19-31 Rich or poor, all men die (Heb 9:27). Money won't change that fact. If you end up in Hell, there are certain things you'll know.

- Your money is gone and is now useless. You will no longer care for money.
 - No mercy will be extended your way. Your thirst will never be quenched (vs 24).
 - While you were alive, you received all the good you are ever going to see (vs 25).
 - If you'd have trusted Christ, you'd be comforted instead of tormented (vs 25).
 - There is no way out (vs 26).
 - Soul winning is more important than being rich (27-28). Once you're in Hell, you can't tell anybody about Jesus Christ.
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Matt 19:16-26 If given the choice between your riches and Jesus Christ, which would you choose? Being wealthy is not the problem. Being unwilling to give up your wealth for the Lord shows what is more important to you. That attitude will turn you away from eternal life and leave you sorrowful.

Riches are not an indication that you're right with God. God promised the Jews that they would prosper on the Earth if they kept His commandments (1 Kings 2:3, Deut 29:9), but that won't get a person into Heaven.

If you Love the Lord (Mark 12:30), nothing on this earth will prevent you from coming to Him. You'll be willing to deny yourself of riches (vs 21), family (Mt 19:29), worldly comforts (Lk 9:3), or anything else that might tie you down and prevent you from serving the Lord (2 Tim 2:4).
