

JAMES (5:1-11)

Lesson 23: The Problem with Riches (Part 2)

12 June 2020

Vs 1 Rich men will have miseries in their future.

Vs 2 Today men see riches as a good thing. God looks upon our riches as cankered, rusty, and motheaten.

Vs 3 At the Judgment Seat of Christ, for those who trusted in riches instead of the Lord Jesus, their riches will be used as evidence against them.

- **1 Peter 1:17-19** The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because it is the only thing that can redeem a person. Silver and gold is worthless at the Judgment Seat.
- **Psalms 49:1-10** Money can buy a lot of things in this world, but it can't buy your soul.
 - That eliminates paying for special Masses for the dead.
 - That eliminates buying indulgences for remission of sins.

Any money you accumulate while you're alive will be left to others (vs 10) when you die.

If you stockpile your treasures for the hard days ahead instead of trusting in the Lord, you'll find out that your riches are a poor substitute for God. They won't protect you in the end.

It's okay to be prudent, wise, and sensible as long as you don't start trusting in your money and your stock pile of groceries and forget that God is your only hope of escaping the horrors of the last days.

Vs 4 This verse reinforces the principle of fair compensation for work performed, being fair with people who perform a service for you, not defrauding people who work for you.

- This principle was given to Israel in Deuteronomy 24:14-15.
- The Bible doesn't teach that everybody should receive equal pay or that the rich should give their money to the poor to equal things out. Jesus said there will always be poor people (Mt 26:11, Mk 14:7, Jn 12:8).
 - Employers are to be fair and timely with employees' paychecks.
 - The laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7).
 - Don't muzzle the ox (1 Cor 9:9). Ministers should be taken care of.
 - Employees are to be trustworthy and diligent in their areas of responsibility (Col 3:23).

Vs 5 Rich men tend to pursue every pleasure their money will buy. They are "wanton" (unrestrained) in pursuit of their carnal desires.

- Believers are instructed to be **temperate** (not excessive) (1 Cor 9:25, Gal 5:23, Titus 2:2, 2 Pet 1:6) and **moderate** (Philippians 4:5) and **sober minded** (Titus 1:8, 2:6, 1 Pet 1:13).
 - Jesus instructs His disciples to deny themselves (Mt 16:24, Mk 8:34, Lk 9:23)
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Vs 6 Rich men have historically been responsible for the deaths of countless men and women.

Christian martyrs throughout the centuries have suffered persecution (2 Cor 11:24-25) and laid down their lives without resisting for the furtherance of the gospel (Acts 7:59-60, 21:13, Rev 12:11, Heb 11:35).

They know that vengeance belongs to God their Father (Rom 12:19) and He will repay the enemies of His children.

The reason a just man doesn't resist wicked men: if a wicked man dies, he'll go to Hell. If a just man dies, he'll go to Heaven. Our aim is to get people saved. Killing them won't accomplish that goal.
