

James 5:1-6

Warning about How We Use Our Wealth

How we use the things God has given us reveals a lot about our hearts. We all have wealth to some degree (money, possessions, etc.), and it is easy to become selfish with what we have. In this passage, James exposes some rich people who were showing the effects of loving wealth over loving God.

James warns the rich that their attitude toward wealth was going to bring them misery (v. 1). Verses 2-6 explain why:

> What has happened to their riches (v. 2-3a)? Riches are corrupt, clothes moth-eaten, and their gold and silver are corroded.

> What have they done with their wealth (v. 3b)? They have heaped it up/selfishly hoarded it.

> How have they used their wealth in relation to other people (v. 4)? They have withheld their money from others through fraud.

> How have they selfishly used wealth according to verse 5? They lived in pleasure, luxury and self-indulgence.

> What has their love of wealth even led some people to commit (v. 6)? It led them to the point of committing murder.

Application

Having wealth is not a sin, but wealth can lead to selfishness and pride. The love of money is truly the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10). Loving wealth will:

- Consume our time and efforts in order to get more.
- Prevent us from using our wealth for God's purposes.
- Keep us from showing love to those around us.

When we realize that everything we have is from God and for God, we'll use what He gives us in ways that honors Him. And in the process, we'll attain lasting treasures (Matt. 6:19-20).

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