



# JAMES

The God of Wealth

5:1-5

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

# JAMES 5:1-5

## James Series

Written to 12 tribes scattered

Written by Jesus' Little Brother

Witness to the Life and Ministry of Jesus

Witness to the Resurrected Jesus

Leader of Early Church – Jerusalem



Godly Rich

Ungodly Rich

Godly Poor

Ungodly Poor

# JAMES 5:1-5

## Biblical Overview on Wealth

1. Godly Poor
2. Godly Rich
3. Ungodly Poor
4. Ungodly Rich

## Dividing Line

1. Who Owns Me?
2. Whose is This?



# JAMES 5:1-5

James 5:1-5 “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.



# JAMES 5:1-5

<sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.”

## *Troubling Warning*

- miseries coming your way
- weep and howl – no small issue



# JAMES 5:1-5

## 1. Charged With:

### a) Hoarding

- display of wealth in the day
- having much more than you can use
- laying up treasure that could be used

### b) Defrauding

- day to day existence of worker
- without pay – no food to eat
- clear rules for God's people on this



# JAMES 5:1-5

- Deut. 24:14-15 "You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. <sup>15</sup>You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin."
- Jer. 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages."





# JAMES 5:1-5

## c) Selfish Lifestyle

- time on earth marked by:

- luxury

- self indulgence

- unrestrained gratification

## d) Taking Advantage of the Righteous

- 2:6-7 <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?

<sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?"



# JAMES 5:1-5

- laws suppress them, killing them possible
- open season on the righteous man

## 2. Divine Retribution Coming

- scary things to say
  - a) miseries coming upon you
    - empty and worthless treasures revealed
  - b) evidence against you
    - truth will be revealed, record will stand
  - c) acts of injustice seen by God
    - heard and responding to the cries



# JAMES 5:1-5

d) there will be an accounting  
- this will be set right



# JAMES 5:1-5

## So What?

We Live in the top 5% of the world's wealth!

1. Heart Check

-Where Am I on the four Quadrants?






Godly Rich



Ungodly Rich



Godly Poor



Ungodly Poor

# JAMES 5:1-5

## So What?

We Live in the top 5% of the world's wealth!

### 1. Heart Check


- Where Am I on the four Quadrants?
- Who do I believe Owns Me?
- Whose is it?

### 2. Am I Sliding Into.....

- hoarding?
- defrauding?
- selfish lifestyle?



# JAMES 5:1-5



<sup>1</sup> Tim. 6:8-10 <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

# JAMES 5:1-5

17-19 "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

