



JAMES

Letter of James

BASIC THEME:

Good works flow out of genuine faith.

KEY VERSE:

What good is it my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

- James 2:14



Tests of Faith

Trials

Temptation

Obedience

Favoritism

The Tongue



TODAY'S TEST

MONEY



A Warning Against the Misuse of Wealth

JAMES 5:1-6



JAMES 5:1 *niv*

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.



Who are the Rich People?

Excessive Accumulators - James 5:2-3

Fraudulent Operators - James 5:4

Selfish Indulgers - James 5:5

Ruthless Oppressors - James 5:6



JAMES 5:1 *niv*

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.



WARNING AGAINST

Excessive Accumulation

James 5:2-3 *niv*

Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.



MATTHEW 6:19-21 *niv*

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



“While the Bible does not discourage saving and prudential provision for one’s needs, it is dead set against the vast accumulation of self-directed wealth focused solely on perpetuating one’s own comforts and pleasures.”

- *Kent Hughes*



WARNING AGAINST
Fraudulent Practices

James 5:4 niv

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.



DEUT 24:14-15 *niv*

Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. ¹⁵ Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.



WARNING AGAINST
Fraudulent Practices

James 5:4 niv

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.



PROVERBS 3:27-28 *niv*

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—when you already have it with you.



WARNING AGAINST
Sinful Indulgence

James 5:5 niv

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.



“Materialism is fundamentally a focus on and a trust in what we can touch and possess. In exposing materialism, the real issue for Christ is not the stuff around us but the stuff within us. Simply stated, coveting is desiring stuff too much or desiring too much stuff.

Materialism is what happens when coveting has cash to spend.”

- Dave Harvey



WARNING AGAINST
Sinful Indulgence

James 5:5 niv

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.



WARNING AGAINST
Ruthless Oppression

James 5:6 *niv*

You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.



Four Warnings from James 5:1-6

A Warning Against **Excessive Accumulation**

A Warning Against **Fraudulent Practices**

A Warning Against **Selfish Indulgence**

A Warning Against **Ruthless Oppression**



Wealth is intended
to **ble**ss not opp



A Prescription for Using Wealth

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *niv*

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.



A Simple Plan for Generosity

Give Regularly as an Act of Worship (Tithe)

Participate in Church Capital Campaigns

Support a Global Ministry/Local Parachurch

Engage in Spontaneous Generosity



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