

When It's Bad to Be Rich

The Court Case Against the Oppressive Rich James 5:1-6 Chris Mueller 3-20-22

Introduction:

1-6 The oppressive, wicked wealthy 7-11 The oppressed poor

James 1:10, James 2:5-6. James 4:13

1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Wealth and Poverty

Physical Situation	Spiritual Situation	Description	Prescription	Example
Poor	Poor	Lacking proper housing, clothing and food and not born again and blessed in Christ	Individual seek to meet basic needs and point them to Christ. Trust in spiritual and physical needs	Isaiah 61:1 Spiritually and physically afflicted
Rich + Exceptionally Rich (businessmen, land owners)	Rich	Blessed with both material and heavenly riches. The doubly rich, use their prosperity to help others	Seek to served and practice giving generously to other, for the gospel and the joy of giving	Job 1:1-3 Joseph of Arimathea Matt 27:57
Poor	Rich	Lacking food, clothing or shelter, their saints have a strong faith and often give what little they have	Provide physical needs and opportunities for them to serve and give	Church in Smyrna Revelation 2:9 The Philippian believers
Rich & Exceptionally Rich	Poor	Having an abundance of food, clothes and shelter. These forget that all blessings are from God alone	Call them to turn to Christ and trust in Him instead of riches	Rich Young Ruler Mark 10:21 Church of Laodicea Revelation 3:17

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! **4** Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. **5** You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you

Deuteronomy 24:14 You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, ... **15** "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

Jeremiah 22:13 Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness And his upper rooms without justice, Who uses his neighbor's services without pay. And does not give him his wages,

2 Timothy 3:1 ...realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **2** For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money...

1 Timothy 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.

Luke 16:14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money...

Hebrews 13:5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"

#1 The hoarding of the rich and powerful pays painful 1-3

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

#2 The unjust actions of the rich and powerful will not go _____ 4

4 *Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.*

#3 The selfish lifestyle of the rich and powerful only stores up

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5 *You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*

#4 The abuse given to the believing by the rich and powerful will not be by the Judge 6

6 *You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.*

Acts 3:14 You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.

Isaiah 53 The suffering servant of the Lord offered no resistance. He opened not his mouth and like a sheep before his shearers he was dumb

Amos 5:12 For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, you who distress the righteous and accept bribes and turn aside the poor in the gate

TAKE HOME:

A. What are some basic biblical _____ with wealth?

1 **Timothy 5:8** if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 **Corinthians 16:2** On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper...

1 **Timothy 6:17** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

B. Money exposes your _____ for the Lord

Matthew 6:21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

C. _____ today, does not mean luxury tomorrow; lack of _____ today, does not mean lack of judgment tomorrow

Proverbs 11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why does James address the rich? What was going on in James 5:1-6, and what can we learn from that?
2. Are you wealthy biblically? Are you wealthy culturally? How can you live biblically, when you might be low income culturally?
3. What can we learn from James about talking to the lost who are wealthy?
4. What kind of unjust actions over money have you experienced? Have you ever done something unjust concerning money?
5. What should you see in a believer's life if they are truly a good steward with money?
6. What steps do you need to take in order to please the Lord more with your finances?
7. What kind of practices should you avoid and which should you pursue to help you use money for the glory of God?



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