

## James 5:1-6

- Intro:**
- Would you characterize yourself as...
    - rich?
    - poor?
    - in between?
  - What is the basis of thus characterizing yourself?
    - having - possession?
    - being - identity?
  - What has James previously written about the “rich”?
    - James 1:9-11
    - James 2:2-12, 15, 16
    - James 4:13-17
  - Consider the following Scriptural statements about the “rich”
    - Prov. 18:23
    - Prov. 22:7
    - Jere. 5:27-29
    - Ezek. 28:1-19
    - Matt. 6:21
    - Matt. 6:24
    - Matt. 19:16-22
    - Matt. 19:24
    - Luke 6:24
    - Luke 16:19-31
    - I Tim. 6:6-10
  - Does the Bible seem to make a general indictment against the rich?
  - Does the Bible indict or judge the rich because they...
    - acquire, possess and accumulate wealth?
    - are greedy and self-indulgent?
    - commit fraud and extortion?
    - dominate and victimize others?
  - Is the accumulation of wealth always linked with sin in the Bible?
  - Are the rich ever considered to be good or righteous in the Bible?
  - Do the “rich” seem to inevitably...
    - find their identity in having money?
    - find their basis for living in money?
    - find their security and hope in money?
    - find their comfort in money?
    - find their basis of independence and autonomy in money?
    - find intangible power in money?
    - find their basis of influence in money?
    - love things instead of people?
  - Why do the rich detest the poor?
    - because the poor represent God’s intended condition for man?
    - because the poor represent the “Poor One”, Jesus Christ? (cf. Matt. 25:40)
    - because the rich do not want to feel responsible for the poor?
    - because the rich realize that no amount of pity, charity or benevolence toward the poor will resolve the indictment of their faith in money?
  - Does God intend for mankind to be poor?
  - Are the poor more receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why?
  - Is Jesus Christ represented as the “Poor One” with whom Christians are to identify?
  - Is the Church intended to be the “assembly of the poor”?
  - Is the Church intended to be the “assembly of the rich”?

- Vs. 1**
- Are the “rich” that James refers to...
    - Christians in the church(es) he is writing to?
    - non-Christians outside of the church?
  - What is James’ purpose in indicting the “rich” in these verses?
    - to call the rich to repent?
    - to encourage the rich to become poor?
    - to vindicate the poor who have been victimized by the rich?
    - to encourage the Christians that God will avenge wrongs in judgment?
  - When do “miseries” come upon the rich?
    - presently?
    - Roman invasion of 70 A.D.?
    - final judgment of God?
- Vs. 2**
- Is James referring to...
    - the temporality of material things?
    - the impermanence of tangible assets?
    - the transitory value of physical possessions?
- Vs. 3**
- Do gold and silver actually rust or corrode?
  - Does James mean that...
    - material things lose their luster, shine, sheen or glory?
    - precious metals have no lasting value?
    - rust indicates perishable, corruptible, disintegration, decay and destruction?
  - How does such “rust” serve as a witness against the rich that will consume their flesh..”?
    - the consuming decay of “rust” is indicative of what will happen to the rich?
    - as rust eats up metal, so they will be eaten up in the end?
  - What does James mean by, “It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure”?
    - the end is coming, and your tangible treasures are of no value?
    - the last judgment is coming, and what you have trusted in will not last?
    - in the last days of Israel prior to 70 A.D., you have stockpiled your riches?
    - in the “last days” of the Christian era you have accumulated physical treasures, but in the “last day” of God’s judgment you will be bankrupt?
- Vs. 4**
- What are the “rich” accused of in this verse?
    - economic injustice?
    - dishonesty?
    - fraudulent non-payment of wages?
    - failure to give the poor what is due them?
  - What does “Lord of Sabbaoth” mean?
- Vs. 5**
- What are the “rich” accused of in this verse?
    - ostentatious extravagance?
    - “living like kings”?
    - self-pleasing prosperity?
    - self-indulgent excesses?
  - How would you explain the rich “fattening their hearts in/for a day of slaughter”?
    - their self-indulgence makes them like fattened animals going to slaughter?
    - their self-indulgence leads to destructive addictions and excesses?
    - their self-indulgence made them unprepared for the Roman invasion of 70 A.D.?
    - their self-indulgence will be leveled against them in the day of Divine Judgment?
- Vs. 6**
- What are the “rich” accused of in this verse?
    - litigation against and murder of the poor?
    - condemning and crucifying Jesus Christ?
    - condemning and killing Christians?
    - disdain and elimination of the poor?
  - Does “he does not resist you” mean...
    - the poor are helpless and defenseless against the tactics of the rich?
    - Jesus does not take action against the rich in this life?
    - Christians do not “resist evil” (Matt. 5:39) or “avenge themselves” (Rom. 12:19) against injustices of the rich?