



# A Study In The Book Of James

## 2 MASTERS

James 5: 1-6

Sermon Based Study Guide

### **Main Point:**

*“Those who are spiritual place eternal things over temporal things and exalt their desire for the Lord and His commands over their desire for wealth and possessions. They live for Christ and serve others!” - Pastor Mike Wiggins*

### **Discuss It:**

#### **1. Read: James 5: 1-6**

- Who is God speaking to and what is happening in this passage?
- What's one thing that stands out to you from this passage?
- Does this passage raise any questions for you?
- Where or How do you see Jesus Christ in these verses? (or How do they glorify Him?)
- How might this passage apply to us today?

#### **2. Dive Deeper : James 5: 1-6**

- In verse 1 it appears as though James, and God, are opposed to the “rich”. What does this passage reveal about God’s heart and concern towards the rich? (Also See: 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- According to verses 2-3, the wealth of these rich people is not what the problem, but rather, how they used their wealth. What was the sin they committed according to verses 2-3? What have you stored so long that it has begun rotting? How could you put those things to better use by meeting the needs of others instead?
- Verse 4 reveals another sin these rich committed. What was it? (Also See: Leviticus 19:13 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
- What important life lesson can we learn from the “harvesters” in verse 4?
- How does the lifestyle of the harvesters in verse 4 contrast with the lifestyle of the rich in verse 5? What are some of the key differences? How might our modern American lifestyle compare? Who does it more closely resemble? What changes can you make in your lifestyle?

- Finally, in verse 6 we see the final sin committed by these rich people. What was it?
  - The problem with passages like this is that it is easy to dismiss it as only applying to those “richer than me”, but as Americans, each of us are among some of the richest people in history! What important lessons can we learn from these warnings to the “rich” and apply to our own lives?
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### **Apply It:**

What action is the Spirit leading you to personally take through this study? (*Make it specific enough that you can do it this week.*) The following questions will guide you through discovering this:

- What did I learn from this passage?
- How does this passage impact what I believe?
- How will this passage change my daily actions? What’s one thing I can do?
- What is something you can share with someone else as a result of this passage? (*It could be another believer or a not-yet believer*)

**Memory Verse:** *“17 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. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 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.” - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)*

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### **Pray About It:**

**Pray For:** God to help you see how your “riches” have caused you to not rely on God in full faith. Ask Him for wisdom to steward His resources well, enjoy them in a godly manner, and invest them in Kingdom purposes.

## **Answer Guide:**

### **2. Dive Deeper : James 5: 1-6**

- In verse 1 it appears as though James, and God, are opposed to the “rich”. What does this passage reveal about God’s heart and concern towards the rich? (Also See: 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
  - God is not opposed to the rich, but rather to trusting in riches rather than Him and using them for selfish means rather than godly means.
- According to verses 2-3, the wealth of these rich people is not what the problem, but rather, how they used their wealth. What was the sin they committed according to verses 2-3? What have you stored so long that it has begun rotting? How could you put those things to better use by meeting the needs of others instead?
  - They stored up their abundance for themselves rather than using it for others also. As a result it was rotting away.
  - Discuss these 2 questions among yourselves. Encourage the group to be honest and reflect on whether everything they store in their garage, attic, or storage unit is truly necessary or just “rotting”. Also encourage them to take action and give stuff away if possible.
- Verse 4 reveals another sin these rich committed. What was it? (Also See: Leviticus 19:13 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
  - They withheld the wages of those who worked for them, earning them their wealth.
- What important life lesson can we learn from the “harvesters” in verse 4?
  - They cried out to God regarding the injustices they faced. Discuss this as a group.
- How does the lifestyle of the harvesters in verse 4 contrast with the lifestyle of the rich in verse 5? What are some of the key differences? How might our modern American lifestyle compare? Who does it more closely resemble? What changes can you make in your lifestyle?
  - The harvesters lived hand to mouth, fully dependent upon God. The rich lived in luxury, with very little need or worry.
  - Discuss the realities of living in the US and which group of people we may more closely resemble.
  - Discuss changes that can be made in each of our lives on a personal level.
- Finally, in verse 6 we see the final sin committed by these rich people. What was it?
  - They condemned and even murdered the righteous, even though the righteous did not resist them.
- The problem with passages like this is that it is easy to dismiss it as only applying to those “richer than me”, but as Americans, each of us are among some of the richest people in history! What important lessons can we learn from these warnings to the “rich” and apply to our own lives?
  - Having discussed what we can learn and apply from the harvesters, now discuss what lessons you can learn and apply from the rich. Encourage openness and honesty, along with taking action!