

## Living by Faith XI: James

"Now Listen, You Rich People!"

James 5: 1-6

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on October 22, 2017

### ***Entering In:***

*Share a time when you struggled with the question  
whether something you wanted to purchase was a luxury or a necessary.  
Share one episode about money.*

1. After commanding us to "submit yourselves to God" (4:7a), James presents three common situations in which our humble walk with God could falter. (4:11; 4:13ff; 5:1) What are they?

Why do you think those three areas are particularly important in our walk with God?

2. James uses the phrase "Now listen" (cf. 4:13) just as the prophets proclaimed in the Old Testament. What does this phrase imply about the words that follow?

Who is being addressed in James 5:1? Are they believers or non-believers? [Give at least two reasons to support your choice.]

3. What did James tell "you rich people" to do? [cf. 4:9]

What is the misery that is coming?

Which of the following best explains James' exhortation? Explain

- A. What goes around comes around.
- B. Go into mourning because you are under God's judgment.
- C. Repent before God's judgment comes to pass.
- D. Other

4. Why does James rebuke the rich for hoarding? In other words what is wrong with their hoarding based on verses 2-3?

What does the phrase "in the last days" in verse 3 indicate about the mindset of the rich?

How can your storing (or investing) wealth be justified?

Share one or two ways you store treasures in heaven? [cf. Matthew 6:19-20]

5. How does the phrase "their cries have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty" intensify James' warning to these people?

Why are they crying out to *the Lord Almighty* instead of someone else?

Almighty in Greek (Σαβαώθ, *Sabaōth*) means “army.” What does the title “Lord Almighty” indicate about who God is? In other words, why do you think James uses “Almighty”?

What do those who are *crying out* want from God?

For what must you cry out to God?

6. Why is wrong (if it is) to “live in luxury and self-indulgence”?

To what degree do you agree with the comment mentioned in the sermon, “The more comfortable we feel physically, the less we will try to seek holiness spiritually”?

Share an experience of when your physical comfort hurt your spiritual holiness.

7. Which of the following statements do you think best defines the injustice(s) that James cites in this passage? Explain.

- A. Rich people not sharing their wealth with everyone equally.
- B. Getting rich by exploiting/cheating weaker people.
- C. Living in luxury and self-indulgence while your brother suffers in need.
- D. Making money (profiting) while doing business.
- E. Not paying those who work for you in a timely manner.
- F. Other

Share one or two ways you could examine your wealth.

These are some common beliefs people hold about money. Look at the Scriptures and write down corresponding biblical views. [*The Nelson Study Bible*, Ed. by Earl D. Radmacher. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997, p.2104]

Worldly View of Riches	Biblical View of Riches
Money brings freedom.	1 Timothy 6:7-10
Money brings security.	1 Timothy 6:17-19
Money is what matters.	Matthew 6:33
Money is power.	Acts 1:8
Money brings happiness.	John 15:11; 16:24

***Living It Out:***

*Share some assets that God has entrusted to you.  
Pray that you may use those gifts for His kingdom and people.*