The Book of James
James 5:1-6
T.A.G. Resource

Topic: James begins with a strong, prophetic command: "Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you." How does James's tone here reflect the Old Testament prophets (e.g., Amos, Isaiah) when speaking against injustice?

James describes wealth rotting, garments becoming moth-eaten, and gold rusting. What does this vivid imagery reveal about the earthly security people place in material possessions?

James mentions the unpaid wages of day laborers crying out to the "Lord of Hosts" (Yahweh Sabaoth). What is the significance of using this specific title for God in the context of economic exploitation?

James warns that the rich have "laid up treasure in the last days." How does Jesus's teaching in Matthew 6:19–21 ("Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...") expand on what James is warning against here?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19. How does Paul's instruction to wealthy believers complement or balance James's stern warning in James 5:1–6? Is wealth itself sinful in Scripture, or is it the heart attitude and misuse of it?

Cross-reference Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14–15 with James 5:4. How does seeing the deep Old Testament roots of this command help us understand God's enduring character regarding fairness and labor?

Association: Where are you tempted to find your ultimate security—in bank accounts, career stability, or physical possessions rather than in Christ?

In verse 5, James warns against living in "luxury and self-indulgence." What is the difference between enjoying God's good gifts with gratitude and falling into self-indulgent living? What boundaries or habits help guard your heart against material greed?

Guidance: How should this passage shape the way Christians handle business practices, employ others, pay wages, or make purchasing decisions today?

Pray with and for one another.

Cross References:

Verse 1: Proverbs 11:28, Isaiah 13:6, Luke 6:24
Verse 2: Job 13:28, Matthew 6:19–20
Verse 3: Ezekiel 7:19, Romans 2:5
Verse 4: Lev 19:13, Deut 24:14–15
Verse 5: Jeremiah 12:3, Amos 6:4–6, Luke 16:19–25
Verse 6: Amos 2:6, 1 Peter 2:23