



# Practical Faith

*A Study in the Book of James*



# Book of James

## *Practical Faith*



Week	Section	Topic	Teacher
1: February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Intro & James 1:1-18	Testing of Your Faith	Ron Grebe
2: February 15 <sup>th</sup>	James 1:19-27	Hearing and Doing the Word	Adam Collins
3: February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	James 2:1-13	The Sin of Partiality	Mike Gann
4: March 1 <sup>st</sup>	James 2:14-26	Faith Without Works Is Dead	Ryan Snider
5: March 8 <sup>th</sup>	James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue	Ron Grebe
6: March 15 <sup>th</sup>	James 3:13-18	Wisdom from Above	Mike Gann
7: March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	James 4:1-12	Warning Against Worldliness	Ron Grebe
8: March 29 <sup>th</sup>	James 4:13-17	Boasting About Tomorrow	Adam Collins
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter		No Class
9: April 12 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:1-6	Warning to the Rich	Ron Grebe
10: April 19 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:7-12	Patience in Suffering	Adam Collins
11: April 26 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:13-20	The Prayer of Faith	Mike Gann

# Style & Major Themes



- James is made up of short challenging, **wisdom speeches**:<sup>1</sup>
  - Chapter 1 introduces key themes of the book
  - Chapter 2-5 Twelve teachings about wholehearted devotion to Jesus
    - Full of metaphors and easy to memorize one-liners

Do not show partiality

Location	Theme	Revisited
James 1:2-4, 12	Trials of life	5:7-11
James 1:5-8	God gives wisdom	3:13-18
James 1:9-11	<b>Wealth is fleeting</b>	<b>2:1-7</b> and <b>5:1-6</b>
James 1:16-18	God gives generously	4:13-17 and 5:7-8
James 1:19-25	Be doers of the word	2:14-26
James 1:26-27	Bridle your tongue	3:1-12, 4:11, and 5:12

Warning to the rich

<sup>1</sup><https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-james>

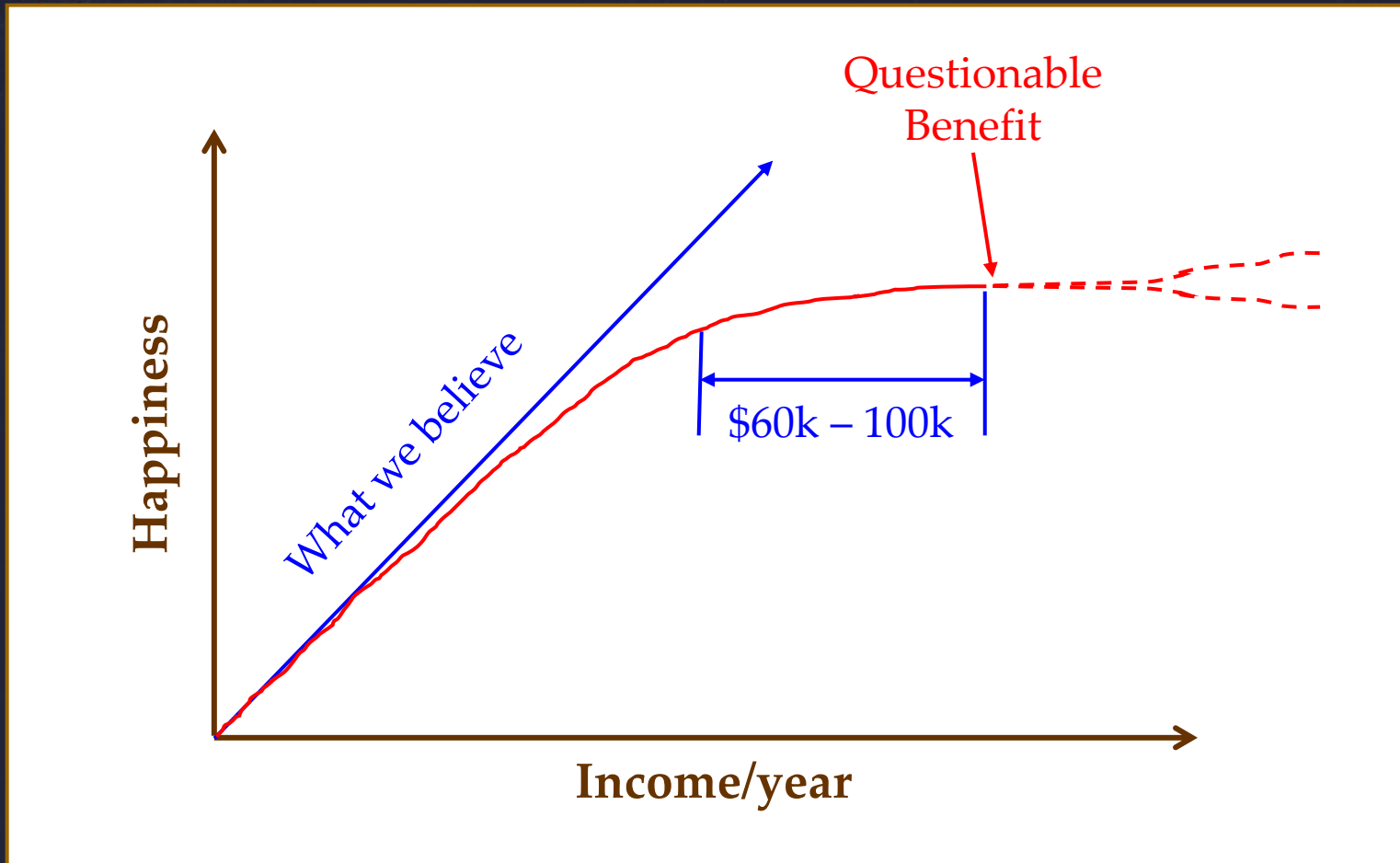


# Age-old Question:

# Does Money buy Happiness?



# Income vs Happiness<sup>1</sup>



*“If you were **happy** when you were poor you will be **happier** when you are rich. If you were **miserable** when you were poor you will just as **miserable** if you are rich.” – Mark Cuban*



*Consensus of most studies is that happiness levels off or even shrinks with more income.*

<sup>1</sup><https://www.yourtango.com/money/surprising-income-level-money-stops-making-you-happier-says-research>

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:1-6)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

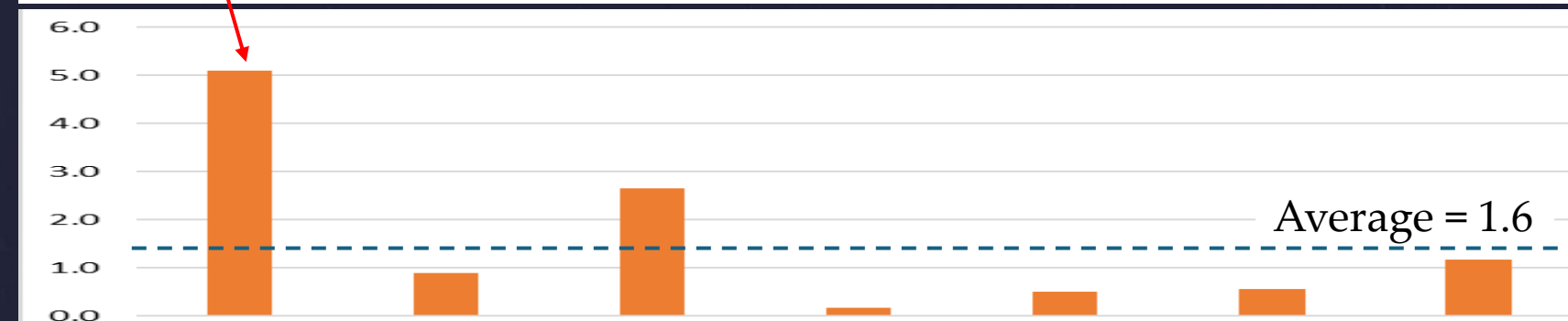
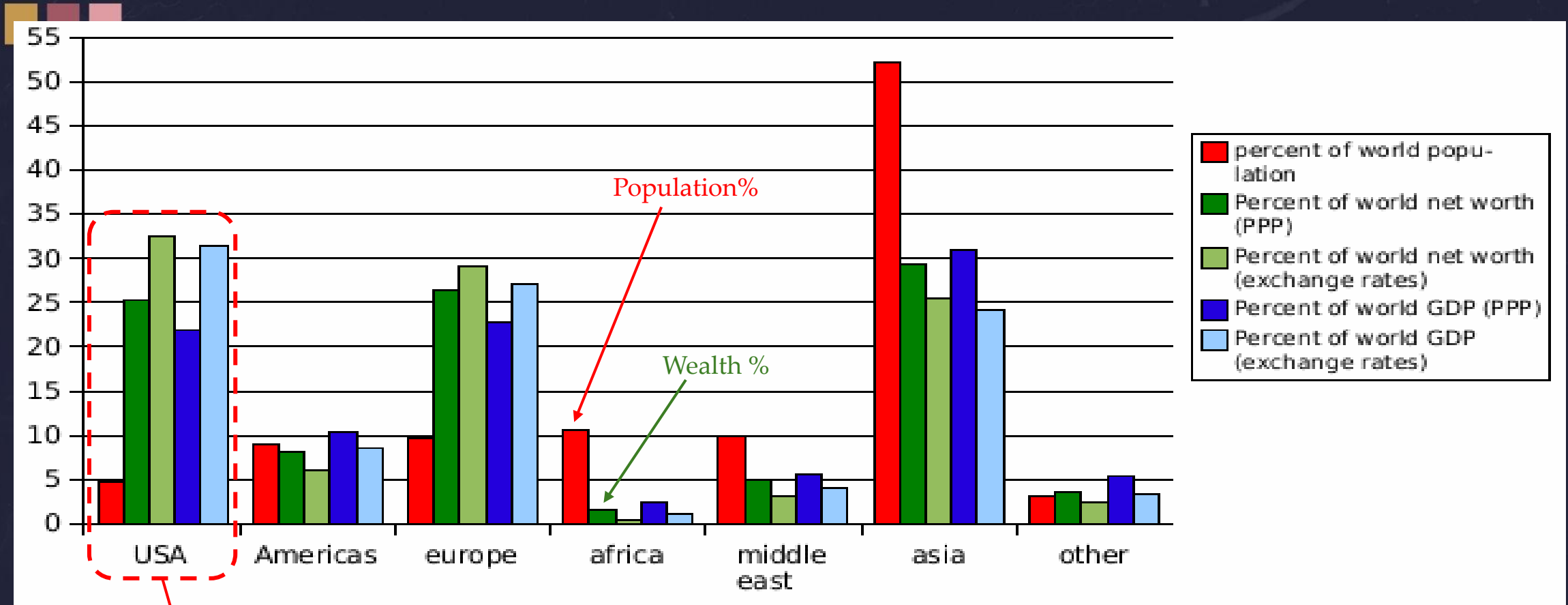




Do you think James  
5:1-6 applies to us in  
21<sup>st</sup> Century America?



# USA vs Rest of the World<sup>1</sup>



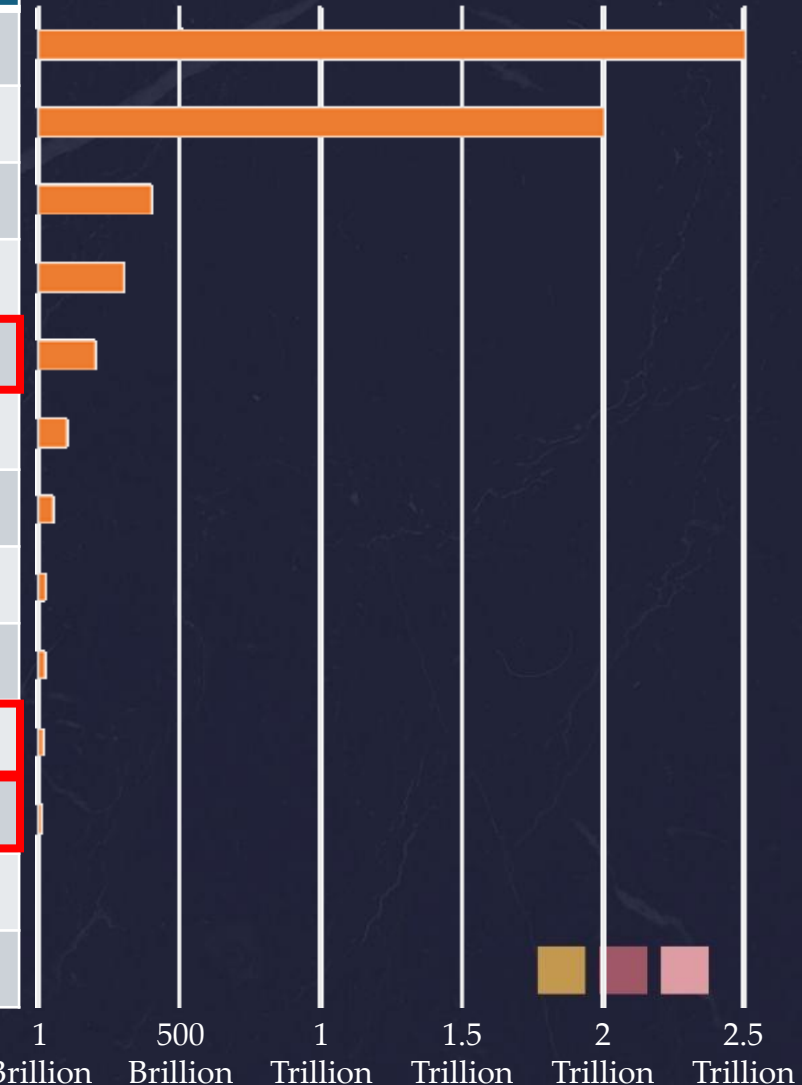
$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\text{Wealth \%}}{\text{Population \%}}$$

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth\\_distribution\\_by\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_distribution_by_country)

# Wealthiest People in the Bible



Person	Today's Wealth <sup>1</sup>
1. King Nebuchadnezzar	2.5 Trillion
2. King Solomon	2 Trillion
3. King Cyrus	400 Billion
4. King David	300 Billion
5. Joseph	200 Billion
6. King of Assyria	100 Billion
7. King Uzziah	50 Billion
8. King Jotham	25 Billion
9. Queen Vashti	20 Billion
10. Abraham	15 Billion
13. Job	8 Billion
18. Pontius Pilate	3 Billion
25. Queen of Sheba	1 Billion



Elon Musk  
\$850 Billion

<sup>1</sup><https://historycollection.com/the-bibles-wealthiest-ranking-their-fortunes-in-modern-terms/>

# Would you stop to pick-up \$1?

\$5 lunch to a millionaire is a \$4.25 million lunch for Musk

\$50 million wedding to Jeff Bezos is a \$200 wedding to a millionaire



Thickness of a dollar bill = 0.0043"

A stack of 850,000 U.S. dollars in single-dollar bills is approximately 304.58 feet (3,655 inches) tall.



Hyatt Regency in Phoenix (317')

\$1 to a millionaire = \$850,000 to Elon Musk

# Solomon on Wealth



*Solomon was 2.3x wealthier  
than Elon Musk*

Elon Musk  
\$850 Billion

2. King Solomon	2 Trillion
3. King Cyrus	400 Billion

“He who loves money  
will not be satisfied  
with money, nor he  
who loves wealth  
with his income; this  
also is vanity.”  
– Ecclesiastes 5:10



*“Whoever said,  
'Money can't buy  
happiness' really  
knew what they were  
talking about.” –  
Elon Musk  
on February 6, 2026*



“How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
To get understanding is to be chosen rather than  
silver.” – Proverbs 16:16



# Jesus on Solomon

## *Sermon on the Mount*

“<sup>25</sup>Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. *Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?* <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? *Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.* <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” – Matthew 6:25-30



# Scripture on Wealth



- Futility of wealth:

<sup>4</sup> Do not toil to acquire wealth;  
be discerning enough to desist.

<sup>5</sup> When your eyes light on it, it is gone,  
for suddenly it sprouts wings,  
flying like an eagle toward heaven."  
– Proverbs 23:4-5 ESV

<sup>4</sup> Do not weary yourself to gain wealth;  
Stop dwelling on it.

<sup>5</sup> When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.  
For wealth certainly makes itself wings  
Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens."  
– Proverbs 23:4-5 NASB

- The Bible addresses the futility of pursuing wealth **extensively**, emphasizing the transient nature of material riches and the **spiritual dangers** associated with prioritizing wealth over one's relationship with God.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>[https://biblehub.com/topical/f/futility\\_of\\_pursuing\\_wealth.htm](https://biblehub.com/topical/f/futility_of_pursuing_wealth.htm)

# NT Wealth



- God blesses people and several **wealthy people** were instrumental in advancing God's kingdom:<sup>1</sup>

*Was instrumental in the resurrection of Jesus*

- Matthew (Luke 5:27-29)
- Joanna (Luke 8:3)
- **Joseph of Arimathea** (Matthew 27:57)
- Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)
- **Priscilla and Aquila** (1 Cor 16:19)

- Paul's teaching on money:

*Had churches in their home in Rome and Corinth (and likely Ephesus)*

*"<sup>10</sup>For **the love of money** is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs ...*

*"<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, **to be generous and ready to share**, <sup>19</sup>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 6:10, 17-19*



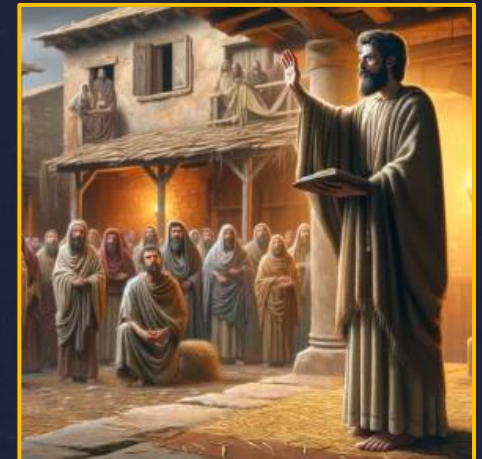
<sup>1</sup><https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-wealth.html>

# Context of James 5



- What was going on in the world at the time **James** wrote his letter?
  - A severe, **widespread famine** occurred in **Judea** during the reign of Roman Emperor Claudius (approx. 41–54 AD), which heavily impacted the **Jerusalem church**.
- Prophesied by **Agabus**, the crisis caused significant starvation, prompting the church in Antioch to send relief to **Judea**, a model for early Christian charity and cross-community support:

*“<sup>27</sup>Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>And one of them named **Agabus** stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a **great famine over all the world** (this took place in the days of Claudius). <sup>29</sup>So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, **to send relief to the brothers living in Judea**. <sup>30</sup>And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.” – Acts 11:27-30*



# Context of James 5



- Paul's collection for the **saints** in Jerusalem:

*"<sup>25</sup>At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. <sup>26</sup>For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem."  
– Romans 15:25-26*

*"Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do." – 1 Cor 16:1*

*"<sup>1</sup>We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints." – 2 Corinthians 8:1-4*

*"<sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." – Galatians 6:9-10*



# Major Theme in James?

- Where else does James address the **rich**?

*“So also will the rich man **fade away** in the midst of his pursuits.” –1:11*

*“Religion that is **pure** and undefiled before God the Father is this: **to visit orphans and widows in their affliction**” – 1:27*

*“My brothers, **show no partiality** ...” – 2:1*

*“<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ **without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?**” – 2:15-16*

*“You have lived on the earth in **luxury** and in **self-indulgence**” – 5:5*



*Do you think this is an important topic to James?*

# Context of James 5



<sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, “**If the Lord wills**, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Definitely to believers.

<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, **weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.** <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and **will eat your flesh like fire.** <sup>4</sup>You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in **a day of slaughter.** <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. **He does not resist you.**

Do you think this is addressed to people within the church or outside the church?

A "so-called brother?"

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, **brothers**, until the coming of the Lord.

Definitely to believers.





# Warning to the Rich

James 5:1-6



# Weep and Howl (v 5:1)



*“<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, **weep and howl** for the miseries that are coming upon you.”*

- In the style of an Old Testament prophets, James tells the rich to mourn in consideration of their destiny:<sup>1</sup>

*“**Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!**”*

– Isaiah 13:6

*They do not cry to me from the heart,  
**but they wail upon their beds;**  
for grain and wine they gash themselves;  
they rebel against me.” – Hoshea 7:14*

*“‘The songs of the temple shall become **wailings in that day,**’ declares the Lord God.” – Amos 8:3*



# Weep and Howl (v 5:1)



- The "fire" represents the divine judgment and the internal distress that follows such greed.<sup>1</sup>

*“<sup>3b</sup>and their corrosion will be **evidence** against you **and will eat your flesh like fire.**”*

- Will be used as **evidence** against the rich in the day of judgment.
- In the life to come, their riches will be revealed as corrupted, moth-eaten and corroded.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Guzik, David, *Study Guide for James 5*, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/james/james-5.cfm?a=1151001](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/james/james-5.cfm?a=1151001)

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:2-6)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, **weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.** <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and **will eat your flesh like fire.** You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts **in a day of slaughter.** <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. **He does not resist you.**



**Judgment**

## Four Sins of Wealth

James notes four sins that precipitate the severe judgment pronounced on the wicked rich:<sup>1</sup>

1. Uselessly Hoarded
2. Unjustly Gained
3. Selfishly Spent
4. Ruthlessly Acquired



<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, John, *New Testament Commentary on James*, pages 243-250.

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:2-3)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

Uselessly Hoarded:

- Hoarding is one of the most widespread sins of our time.<sup>1</sup>
- Jesus taught that the right attitude towards money is the opposite of hoarding:

*“Truly, I say to you, this **poor widow** has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box.” – Mark 12:43*



# Warning to the Rich (v 5:2-3)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your **riches** have rotted and your **garments** are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your **gold and silver** have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

Uselessly Hoarded:

- Destruction of three kinds of wealth:
  - Riches rotted
  - Garments moth-eaten
  - Gold and silver corroded



# Warning to the Rich (v 5:2-3)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are **moth-eaten**. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have **corroded**, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

Uselessly Hoarded:

- Destruction of three kinds of wealth:
  - Riches rotted
  - Garments moth-eaten
  - Gold and silver corroded

- Likely a reference to the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6:19-20)

*John Calvin thinks the sense is, "Your riches perish without being of any use either to others or even to yourselves."<sup>1</sup>*

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:2-3)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire.

**You have laid up treasure in the last days.**

<sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



*eschatos* – last, referring to time. It is the root of "eschatology".

## Four Sins of Wealth

Uselessly Hoarded:

- The last days are defined as the time between Christ's first and second comings:
  - Acts 2:16-17
  - 2 Tim 3:1
  - Heb 1:1-2
  - 1 Pet 1:20, 4:7
  - 1 John 2:18
  - Jude 17-19





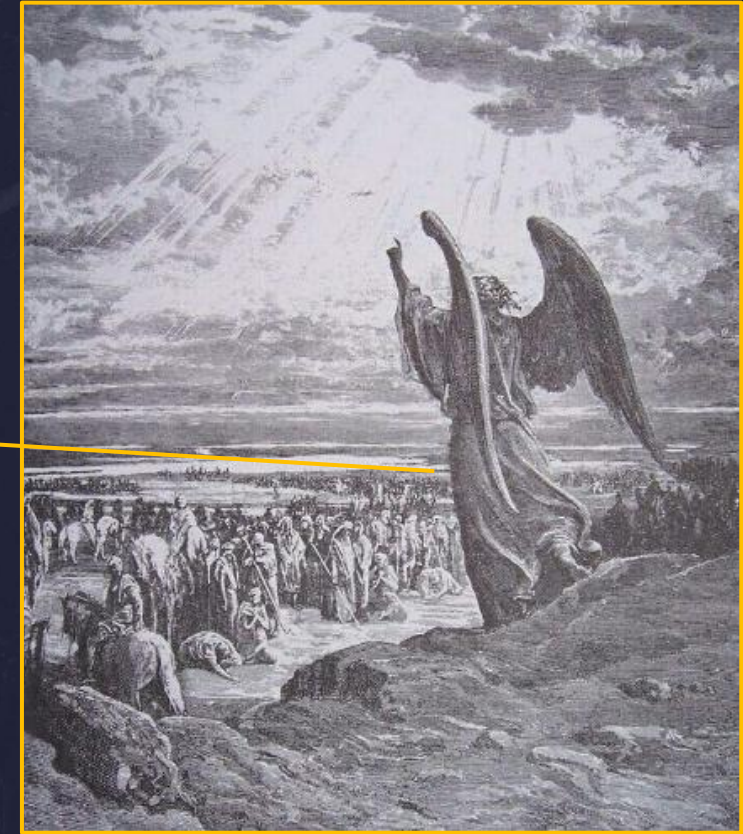
# Lord of Hosts<sup>1</sup>



- We might overlook this title of God because its English translation doesn't awe like its Hebrew original. To us, a "host" can be a "multitude" or can describe an entertainer. But in Hebrew, "host" is far more majestic.

- The term's range of meaning suggests **three powerful truths** about God:

1. *The Lord of hosts is the God of armies*: The divine title regularly appears in battle settings. David didn't drive out the invading Philistines alone; the "Lord of hosts" gave the victory (2 Samuel 5:10; 6:2). God is a warrior who commands heaven's armies against our most vicious foes.



<sup>1</sup><https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2022/08/lord-of-hosts/>

# Lord of Hosts<sup>1</sup>



- The term's range of meaning suggests **three powerful truths** about God (continued):

2. *The Lord of hosts is the God of angels:* Angels will flank Jesus when He comes to earth in the Father's glory (Matthew 16:27). In the meantime, they are ministering spirits whom God deploys to help His children (Hebrews 1:14).

3. *The Lord of hosts is God Almighty:* A Greek translation of the Old Testament emphasizes the might of **Yahweh Sabaoth**, the all-powerful One. In contrast to false gods that "cannot speak" (Jeremiah 10:5), when the Lord of hosts "**utters his voice, the earth melts**" (Ps. 46:6; see Jeremiah 10:13).



*The Lord of Hosts is "the king in the fullness of his glory, who, surrounded by the regimented hosts of angels, governs the whole world as the Almighty."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup><https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2022/08/lord-of-hosts/>

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:4)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by **fraud**, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

Unjustly Gained:

- *apostereō* – to deprive someone, defraud, rob, despoil.
- This is an intentional act – it is not accidental.
- They were not only guilty of sinfully hoarding their wealth; they had also sinfully acquired it.<sup>1</sup>



# Warning to the Rich (v 5:4)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by **fraud**, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

### Unjustly Gained:

*"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning." – Leviticus 19:13*

*"<sup>14</sup>You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy ... <sup>15</sup>You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin." – Deut 24:14-15*

*"The rich ought to have given freely to the poor; not doing so was sin. A still greater sin was not paying their debts".<sup>1</sup>*

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:5)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>**You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.** <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

### Selfishly Spent:

- Logos<sup>1</sup>: expresses luxurious effeminacy (i.e., over-indulgence in comfort, pleasure, and wealth).
- Logos<sup>1</sup>: wantonness and prodigality (i.e., extreme lack of restraint, characterized by reckless wastefulness, immoral indulgence, and lavish dissipation).

*"Their luxury was at the expense of the defrauded poor."<sup>1</sup>*

# Warning to the Rich (v 5:5)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have **fattened** your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



## Four Sins of Wealth

### Selfishly Spent:

- Logos<sup>1</sup>: that is gluttoned your bodies like beasts to the full extent of your hearts' desire.

*"And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil." – Ecclesiastes 2:10*



# Warning to the Rich (v 5:6)



<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

*phoneuō* – to kill, slay, murder

## Four Sins of Wealth

### Ruthlessly Acquired:

- Final progression in the downward spiral.
- Just like they did with Christ, they condemned and actually put to death righteous men.
- James is believed to have been martyred in ~62 AD by a Jewish mob.



# Warning to the Rich (v 5:6)



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## Four Sins of Wealth

Ruthlessly Acquired:

- Nickname was “James the Just” or “James the Righteous” because of his outstanding virtue.
- Also called “Camel Knees” because of his extensive time spent in prayer.

*James uses the same word in 5:16 “The prayer of the righteous person has great power.”*

# Scripture on Wealth



*“Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but **the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.**” – Proverbs 11:28*

*“<sup>19</sup>Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*<sup>21</sup>**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” – Matthew 6:19-20*

*“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**” – Luke 16:13*

*“<sup>24</sup>And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’*

*<sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you **in your lifetime received your good things,** and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, **and you are in anguish.**” – Luke 16:24-25*

# Summary



- The biblical narrative consistently portrays the pursuit of wealth as ultimately **futile**, urging believers to seek spiritual riches and **prioritize their relationship with God** above material gain.<sup>1</sup>
- The Scriptures call for a life of contentment, **generosity**, and trust in God's provision, recognizing that true fulfillment and security are found not in earthly wealth but in the eternal treasures of God's kingdom.<sup>1</sup>
- This passage also acts as a **comfort** to those suffering under injustice and a warning that God sees and will **judge** the abuse of power and wealth.

*The Warrior king  
Saw That*



<sup>1</sup>[https://biblehub.com/topical/f/futility\\_of\\_pursuing\\_wealth.htm](https://biblehub.com/topical/f/futility_of_pursuing_wealth.htm)

# Personal Application



- Trust in God, not riches.
- The application is to manage money with **wisdom**, **integrity**, and **generosity**, rather than trusting in riches or using them to harm others.
- Are we guilty of the same **blindness**? Ignoring the **poor** and **hungry** among us?



**Judgment**

# Book of James

## *Practical Faith*



Week	Section	Topic	Teacher
1: February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Intro & James 1:1-18	Testing of Your Faith	Ron Grebe
2: February 15 <sup>th</sup>	James 1:19-27	Hearing and Doing the Word	Adam Collins
3: February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	James 2:1-13	The Sin of Partiality	Mike Gann
4: March 1 <sup>st</sup>	James 2:14-26	Faith Without Works Is Dead	Ryan Snider
5: March 8 <sup>th</sup>	James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue	Ron Grebe
6: March 15 <sup>th</sup>	James 3:13-18	Wisdom from Above	Mike Gann
7: March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	James 4:1-12	Warning Against Worldliness	Ron Grebe
8: March 29 <sup>th</sup>	James 4:13-17	Boasting About Tomorrow	Adam Collins
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter		No Class
9: April 12 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:1-6	Warning to the Rich	Ron Grebe
10: April 19 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:7-12	Patience in Suffering	Adam Collins
11: April 26 <sup>th</sup>	James 5:13-20	The Prayer of Faith	Mike Gann



# Practical Faith

*A Study in the Book of James*

