

James 5:1-6

October 24, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Bradley Vinson: *"Money is a tool. Used properly it makes something beautiful; used wrong it makes a mess."*

James 1:2 - My *brethren* count it all joy when you fall into various trials.

2:1 - My *brothers and sisters*, believers... must not show favoritism.

3:1 - My *brethren*, let not many of you become teachers.

4:11 - Don't speak evil of one another *brothers and sisters*.

v. 5:1 - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

1. The Dangers of Riches

Gen. 13:2 - Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.

1 Chron. 29:28 - David died at a ripe old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth, and honor.

Job 1:3 - Job was the richest person in all the East.

4 dangers of wealth.

1. Wealth can lead to pride and arrogance.

Daniel 4:30 - "Look at this great city of Babylon! By *my own mighty power*, I've built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor."

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Proverbs 28:11 - The rich are wise in their own eyes.

Ezekiel 28:5 - Your heart has become proud in its wealth.

Deut. 8:18 - The LORD your God is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

2. Wealth frequently leads to complacency and a false sense of security.

Rev. 3:16-17 - Because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I’m rich; I’ve acquired wealth and don’t need a thing.’ But you don’t realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

3. Wealth can dull our senses to the needs of those around us.

Luke 16:19-21 - Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table...”

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4. Wealth can capture our hearts and become our priority.

Deut. 8:12-14 - When you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God.

2. The Directives to Follow

Directive #1 - Don't hoard money greedily; manage it wisely.

v. 5:1-3 - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have *heaped up treasure* in the last days.

Luke 12:16 - Jesus told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

Lev.19:9-10 - “When you harvest the crops of your land, don't harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and don't pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same with your grape crop—don't strip every last bunch of

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grapes from the vines, and don't pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God."

Proverbs 22:9 - Whoever has a generous eye will be blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Proverbs 11:24-25 - One gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Matthew 6:19-20 - "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves don't break in and steal."

Directive #2 - Don't withhold what's right.

v. 4 - The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Deut. 24:14-15 - "Never take advantage of poor and destitute laborers, whether they're fellow Israelites or foreigners living in your towns. You must pay them their wages each day before sunset because they're poor and are counting on it."

2 Cor. 8:7-9 - But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in the love we inspired in you—see that you also *excel in this grace of giving*. I'm not commanding you to do this, but I'm testing the sincerity of your love... For you know the grace of our

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Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

1. Give to the less fortunate.

Proverbs 19:17 - Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his deed.

2. Give to God's work.

1 Cor. 9:11, 14 - If we've sown *spiritual things* among you, is it too much if we reap *material things* from you?... The Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it.

Directive #3 - Don't spend your money selfishly; share it generously.

v. 5-6 - You've lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You've condemned, you've murdered the just; he doesn't resist you.

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1. The _____ of Riches.

Four Dangers of Wealth

1. Wealth can lead to _____. (Dan. 4:30)

2. Wealth frequently leads to _____. (Rev.3:16-17)

3. Wealth can dull our senses to _____. (Luke 16:19-21)

4. Wealth can capture our hearts and become _____. (Deut. 8:12-14)

2. The _____ to Follow

Directive #1 - Don't hoard money greedily; _____.

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Directive #2 - Don't withhold what is _____.

How to pay it forward:

1. Give to _____.

2 Give to _____.

Directive #3 - Don't spend your money selfishly; _____.