



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

James (Part-8) (Chapter 5:1-12)

The Rich, The Oppressed, Our Oath

Judgement against the Rich (1-6): Why are the rich condemned? What awaits the rich in the future? How does God respond to the cry of the oppressed? What does bible teach about money? Why do the rich drift away from faith? Does God condemn the wealthy believers? What is the secret to being rich?

Exhortation to the Oppressed (7-11): What is the counsel given to the oppressed? Is it an easy counsel to follow? How can we suppress our urge to take revenge when unjustly treated? What can we learn from the prophets and apostles? What does the farmer teach us? Have you experienced oppression in life? How did you deal with it?

Swearing (12): What does it say about our character when we swear in our daily conversations? Are we prohibited from taking an oath in court?

Personal Reflection: *Do you consider yourself rich or poor? Do you consider yourself just or unjust?*

James 5

Judgement against the Rich (1-6)

Exhortation to the Oppressed (7-11)

Swearing (12)

Prayer, confession, Healing (13-18)

Restoring backsliders (19-20)



Judgement
against the
Rich (1-6)

Go to now, ye rich men, weep
and howl for your miseries
that shall come upon you (1)

Judgement against the Rich (1-6)

Why are the rich condemned?

What awaits the rich in the future?

How does God respond to the cry of the oppressed?

What does bible teach about money?

Why do the rich drift away from faith?

Does God condemn the wealthy believers?

What is the secret to being rich?

Complaints against the rich

Love of riches leading to ...

Hoarding of riches (3)

Mistreatment of laborers/cheating (4)

Excessive/luxury consumption (5)

Killing of the innocent (6)

Judgement against the rich

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust
of them shall be a witness against you, and
shall eat your flesh as it were fire (3)

Wealth is rotted (2)

Garment is eaten by moths (2)

Gold and Silver are corroded (3)

- Pleasures of riches are short-lived.
- Day of Judgement is coming soon (in this lifetime or in final judgement)

Rich represented by jewelry and clothing (James 2:2)

Judgement against the rich

Warning in Sermon on the Mount: Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (**Mathew 6:19-20**)

We need God's blessing on everything that we own: And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot (**Deuteronomy 29:5**)




Cry of the oppressed triggers God's justice

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth (4)

God's ear are open to our cries

Warning: Do not oppress or unfairly treat those who are under your authority

Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:9-10)



Illicit riches
& oppression
condemned

Getting treasures by a **lying tongue** /s the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death (Proverbs 21:6) Wealth gained by **dishonesty** will be diminished (**Proverbs 13:11**)

He who **oppresses the poor** to increase his *riches* ...*will surely come* to poverty (**Proverbs 22:16**)

Thou shalt **not oppress an hired** servant that is poor and needy ... At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it (**Deuteronomy 24:14-15**)

Illusion of riches
... “never
enough”, “does
not satisfy”,
“leads to evil”

Riches fly away: Do not overwork to be rich; For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away (**Proverbs 23:4-5**)

Riches do not provide security: He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish (**Proverbs 11:28**)

Riches do not satisfy: He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**)

Riches can lead to evil But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (**I Timothy 6:9-10**)

Riches can be a barrier to enter His Kingdom: It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God (**Mathew 19:24**)

How to acquire & enjoy & be satisfied with Riches

Honor God & have Right Priorities (Mathew 6:33; Psalms 37:4, Psalms 145:19)

Work Hard (Proverbs 10:4)

Be Content (I Timothy 6:6)

Give (Proverbs 3:9-10, I Timothy 6:18, Acts 2:44-45, 4:33-35)

Know God The True Riches I am thy exceeding great reward (Genesis 15:1)
fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore (Psalms 16:11)

Right Priorities Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (**Mathew 6:33**) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart (**Psalms 37:4**) He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him (Psalms 145:19)

Work hard: He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich (**Proverbs 10:4**)

Be Content: Godliness with contentment is great gain (**I Timothy 6:6**)

Give: Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (**Proverbs 3:9-10**) Be rich in good works, ready to distribute (**I Timothy 6:18**) (**Acts 2:44-45, 4:33-35**)



Prayer for
protection
from
extreme riches
or extreme
poverty

⁷ Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: ⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies: **give me neither poverty nor riches**; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹ Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

(Proverbs 30:7-9)

Are you rich?

What's your dream?

Do you aspire to be:


Spiritually rich or Materially rich or both?

Rich in relation to your circle of family & friends?

Rich to meet basic needs?

Rich by being able to meet basic needs + have surplus?


Without right perspective on riches, we cannot be satisfied with rich



True Riches
... spiritual,
not material

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
(Ephesians 1:3)

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
(Mark 8:36)



God is Just
and expects
us to be Just

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne:
mercy and truth shall go before thy face (**Psalms 89:14**)

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what
doth the Lord require of thee, but to **do justly**, and to love
mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (**Micah 6:8**)

Exhortation to Oppressed (7-11)

What is the counsel given to the oppressed? How can we suppress our urge to take revenge when unjustly treated? What can we learn from the prophets and apostles? What does the farmer teach us? Have you experienced oppression in life? How did you deal with it?

Prescription to the Oppressed

Be Patient

Don't grumble

Strengthen your hearts

Be Patient

Be patient therefore,
brethren, unto the coming
of the Lord (7)

Be patient because rich who oppressed you will
be judged

Vengeance is mine .. I will repay says the Lord
(**Romans 12:19**) He that doeth wrong shall
receive for the wrong which he hath done
(**Colossians 3:25**)

Stablisth your hearts

stablisth your hearts:
for the coming of the
Lord draweth nigh (8)

Strengthen your hearts ... Avoid hasty reaction. Keep your focus on future and be strong ... Lord is coming!

Romans 8:28 All things (even oppression) works together for our good.

Trust in God's promises.

God is watching and is still in control

Don't grumble

Grudge not one
against another (9)

Be patient when oppressed ... don't murmur, and
complain.

The judge is standing at the door (9)

Examples of suffering and patience (11)

Prophets

Job

- Suffering with endurance is a blessing as God has an intended end
- Lord doubled Job's possessions (**Job 42:10**), But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good (**Genesis 50:20**)



Life lessons from the farmer

Lessons from the farmer

Invests in the Future: Sows the seed

Exercises Stewardship: Labors in the field, waters, protects the field

Exercises Patience: Waits patiently for the outcome

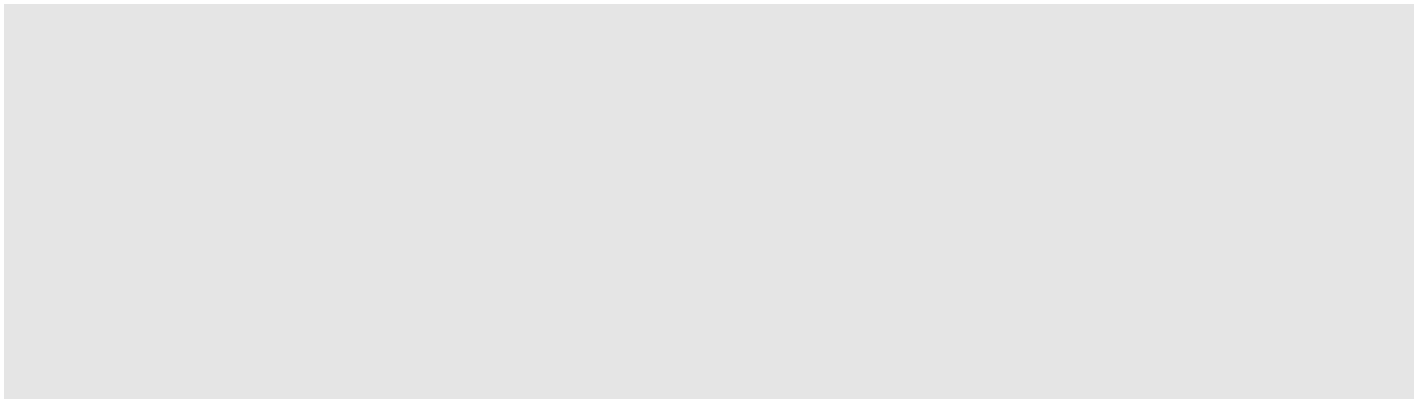
Exercises Faith: Outcome/harvest not in his hands (controlled by God)

Lord is coming
soon ... Judge
is standing at
the door

Prepare to meet thy
God (Amos 4:12)

How “soon” is “soon”?
Are you ready?

Swearing (12)



No need for swearing in daily conversations

People should be able to trust our spoken words (without swearing)

Speak the truth, always

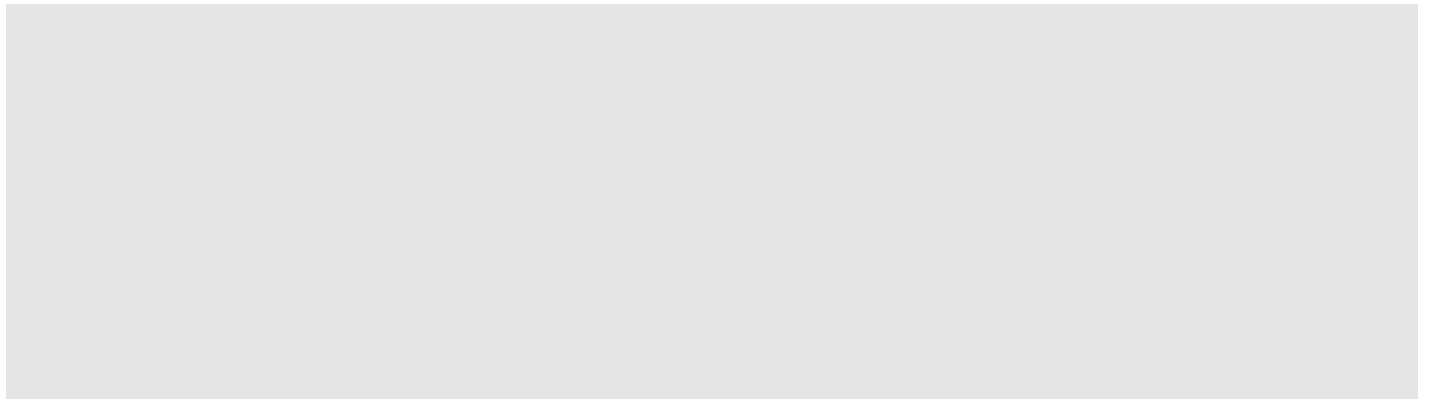
Truth builds Trust

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor (**Ephesians 4:25**)

On swearing
... From
sermon on
the mount

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: ³⁴ But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: ³⁵ Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (**Mathew 5:33-37**)

Bible does not prohibit taking
oath in public (such as in
courts) ... True or False



True, we are not prohibited from taking oath
in courts

We must obey the law of the land

The focus of James is on our daily conversation ... that should
not include swearing.



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