

The Problem with Money Part II

James 5: 1-6

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Series: Practical Christianity

James 5: 1-6

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

The Problem with Money Part I Review

- The introduction of condemnation of the Rich V. 1.
- Their wealth was Uselessly Hoarded. Vv. 2-3.

Their Wealth was Unjustly Gained.

V. 4.

- They withheld the pay of their employees.
 - The law strictly prohibits this.
 - Leviticus 19: 13; Deuteronomy 24: 11-15.
- The Pay cries out against the hoarders.
 - This is an act of war against the Absolute Commander in Chief of the armies of heaven.

Their Wealth was Self-Indulgently Spent. V. 5.

- Three words describing selfish indulgence by the hoarding rich.
 - Greek words truphao, spatlao, and trepho.
- A striking picture of oppressive, self-indulgent robbers who have satiated themselves on the plunder taken from their victims.
 - They are fattening up to be slaughtered.

Their Wealth was Ruthlessly Acquired

V. 6.

- They literally killed to maintain their opulent lifestyle.
 - To put to death is translated as murder in all the other 9 references in the New Testament.
- In the scramble for more wealth the rich used their influence in courts of justice.
 - What began as an interest in money ended as an insensitivity to murder.

Conclusion

- How can believers who are blessed with wealth use it for God's glory and to truly enjoy the pursuit of spiritual happiness?
 - To win the lost. Luke 16: 9
 - Care for those in need. Galatians 2: 10; 1 John 3: 16-18.
 - Support those in ministry. 1 Corinthians 9: 4-14; Galatians 6: 6