

**“Understanding the Nature of Wealth and the Mature Response” 3/27/11**  
**James 5:1-12**

**James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity**

The spiritually mature will: 1) be patient in trials/testing; 2) practice the truth (through loving others; 3) control the tongue; 4) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker; submissive; 5) be mature with money and in prayer (Warren Wiersbe on book of James)

**Main Point- Believers need to understand the passing nature of wealth, the potential temptation and judgment it brings, and to have the proper attitude of patient endurance when we suffer from the consequences of lack or abusiveness.**

**POINT 1-** The nature of wealth requires the mature to check their ASPIRATIONS

- A. The wicked rich have aspired wrongly by their HOARDING  
(5:1-3; Luke 6:24-26; 12:13-32; Matt 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 6:3-11)
- B. The wicked rich have aspired wrongly by DEFRAUDING  
(5:4; Leviticus 19:13; Deut 24:14-15; Malachi 3:5; Jeremiah 22:13)
- C. The wicked rich have aspired wrongly by living in EXCESS  
(5:5; Eccl 2:4-11; Ezek 16:49; 1 Tim 5:6; 2 Timothy 3:4; Luke 16:10-15)
- D. The wicked rich have aspired wrongly by their OPPRESSION

*Going Deeper* God desires for us to be careful with wealth and use it for the kingdom!  
***QUOTE from Exegetical Commentary, pg. 233***

**POINT 2-** The nature of wealth requires the mature to check their ATTITUDES

- A. The attitude of the spiritually mature will demonstrate PERSEVERANCE  
(5:7-8; 1:1-12; Romans 5:3-4; 8:28; Hebrews 10:25)
- B. The attitude of the spiritually mature will not demonstrate GRUMBLING  
(5:9-11; 4:11; Philippians 2:14; Leviticus 19:18; 1 Peter 4:8)
- C. The attitude of the spiritually mature will demonstrate TRANSPARENCY  
(5:12; Matthew 5:33-37; 23:16; John 1:47)

*Going Deeper* God wants us to submit to His loving care and persevere to the end!

**For next week:** Please read James 5:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-25

But there are even more uncomfortable applications that should be made. How many upper or middle class western Christians have so many extra, largely unused clothes, so that, were it not for mothballs or their equivalent, they would have become moth eaten? How many have other needless possessions, even investments, that are not being used for much of anything and certainly not for the Lord's work, that would be better off given to the needy? How many, if they were to be ruthless honest, live a lifestyle perilous close to that of v. 5—of luxury and self-indulgence?

How many churches think that the only realistic option when they outgrow once facility is to build a bigger, more upscale one, with perhaps millions of dollars diverted from truly helping the world's destitute, physically and spiritually? One shudders to think of the potential judgment of god being stored up by so many examples o profligate waste.

Exegetical Commentary by Craig Blomberg of James.  
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