



Sermon Study Guide

Money Matters – James 5:1-6

April 16 & 17, 2016

Opening Questions

- How would you describe your relationship with money?
- To what extent does the way we use and acquire our wealth display our priorities and the nature of our character?

Read Together

James 5:1-6

Big Idea

Misusing of wealth will bring judgement upon you.

Discussion Questions

- 1) God is concerned about how we use our wealth. Almost all Canadians are in the top 8% of the wealthy in the world. What responsibilities do we have to those who are poorer than us? (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- 2) In what ways can we make wealth our god both personally and as a culture? What would the worship of that god look like?
- 3) James said that people would be judged for having “spent your years on this earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire.” (5:5) What are some ways God would have us use our wealth?
- 4) What are some ways we can unwittingly participate in an unjust system through the use of our wealth? How might the words of James 5:4, 6 apply to us?

Challenge

- Through this passage God has given us the opportunity to “weep and groan” over our sins now so that we do not have to in the time of judgement. What financial practices and attitudes of heart is God asking you to make right?
- Have a time of admitting your wrongs to God (confession), expressing your remorse and your desire to do better (repentance), asking for and receiving God’s forgiveness, and asking for the Holy Spirit to equip you and enable you to live as Jesus would have you do.

Prayer

Father, we ask that you would hear the cries of those who are in distress and are suffering injustice. Give us eyes to see how we can be a part of your rescue plan. We commit our finances to you. Be in charge of them and use them for your purposes. Help us to be good stewards who handle money wisely. Help us to be generous, honest, and to save without hoarding, to spend with being careless. Fill us and guide us with your Spirit. Lord, most of all, we give you our hearts. We give you the place of utmost affection and loyalty. We seek you and your Kingdom first for you are of greatest value to us.

Next Step

- Each day this week, ask the Spirit to guide you in the use of your wealth.