

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"Riches"
James 5:1-6
Study-11

Matthew 6:21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Some quote, **1 Timothy 6:10** "Money is the root of all evil." (Misquote)
1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil,

"God will ask two questions,
#1 "How did you use your wealth?" and #2 "How did you gain your wealth?"

This problem of the rich and poor loomed much in James's thinking.
James 1:9-11, 2:1-13, 4:13-17 and now **5:1-6**.

Book of James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity) Mark #11 "Riches" (Wealth)

Thought Of Our Passage: Regarding Wealth, God Asks Two Questions: "How Did You Use Your Wealth?" And "How Did You Gain Your Wealth?"

- 1. Verses 1-3 How You Used Your Wealth:**
- 2. Verses 4-6 How You Gained Your Wealth:**

1. Verses 1-3 How You Used Your Wealth:

James 5:1 Come now, you rich,
We would say, "Now look here!"

It speaks of disapproval and a sense of urgency.

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, (Making Plans, Goals)

Context - James left off addressing believers making plans without God!
James 4:16-17 Now James speaks about the love of money!

you rich, Who Are These Rich?

I believe that James is addressing members of the Church, but I believe that they were **not Possessors of Faith** but **Professors of Faith**.
(Not born again, not true believers)

Suggest Three Reasons: That they are not Christians, but Unbelievers.

1. James states that the fires of judgment are described as destroying both them and their riches. (Does not call them "Brethren, Bothers")
2. They are not challenged to repent. **James 4** tells Christians to repent.
3. They are told to wail over certain prospects of judgment. Prophetic view of the future and even their present state.

Why James Gives This "Mark Of Maturity – Riches"

1. So it was to warn these violators of future judgment.
2. It was to encourage those who were being abused by the rich.
3. To warn the Christians about envying those who are rich; that they do not lose sight

Disfavor Of The Rich: It is for those who trust in their riches.

Proverbs 11:28 (NLT) Mark 10:23-24

Some who are wealthy not only have **God's divine approval**, but their **riches are a blessing from God**.

**Abraham – Genesis 12:2; Isaac - Genesis 24:35;
Jacob - Genesis 30:43; Job – Job; 1:3;
David, Solomon, Barnabas, Joseph of Arimathea.**

James Presents Three Facts of God's Judgment Upon The Rich:

"How Did You Use Your Wealth?"

1. Verse 1 - Coming Judgment: Will Cause The Rich To Wail Now:
weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

weep "to sob aloud, to lament, to sob bitterly." (Judgment coming) **and howl**
"sobbing with howls of agony, intense grief." (not repentance) **Joel 1:5;**
Isaiah 23:1 (unrepentant tears, but of anguish) "live as beasts howl like beasts"

for your miseries

We could think, "How could the rich have hard times?"

which are coming upon you.

It is already in the process.

Luke 6:24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.

2. Verse 2 - Coming Judgment: Wealth Already Corrupted:

James 5:2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

That material possessions are not a good investment.

Your riches - Riches has always been a cultural expression.

Job - sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys.

James Day - riches consisted of **(Food)** grain, fruit, vegetables other forms of food **(Clothing)**, **(Precious metals)** as well as flocks and herds.

Your riches have rotted

(figurative "become worthless, without value")

Probably refer to hoarded grain stored in great barns. **(Luke 12:15-21)**

and your garments have become moth-eaten.

This refers to the garments that they were hoarding.

(Embroidered used in exchanges) **Acts 20:33**

3. Verse 3 - Coming Judgment: Wealth Will Testify Against You:

Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you It will be a witness of the misuse of God's provision.

Your gold and your silver have rusted;

Physical world gold does not rust, but silver will tarnish; gold won't even do that.

James is using a bold metaphor, Rusted – symbol of "disuse"

and will consume your flesh like fire.

Rust will consume their bodies. This wealth has fueled the fire.

Gehenna, place of unquenchable fire. **Matthew 5:29-30; Mark 9:43-48**

It is in the last days

James does not say "for the last days" but "in the last days"

that you have stored up your treasure!

This hoarding. **Matthew 6:19-21**

2. Verses 4-6 How You Gained Your Wealth:

James Presents Three Charges Against Them:

"How Did You Gain Your Wealth?"

1. Verse 4 - Deed Of Withheld Wages:

James 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, those who with the sickle

and which has been withheld by you,

What do we mean by **withheld** - Can be referring to "stolen, robbed, or defrauded."
Even an ox is to be fed for their labor,

1 Timothy 5:18

Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:14-15

cries out against you;

The money that the rich had was crying out, not the empty pocket of the poor.

Proverbs 13:11; 1 Timothy 6:9-10

and the outcry of those who did the harvesting

Those that had been oppressed had prayed to the Lord.

This was a heinous crime for two reasons:

- 1. These poor workers were living hand-to-mouth.**
- 2. This was done at harvest time when food was in abundance.**

has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

This is an Old Testament title for God, it means "Lord of Hosts" or "Lord of Armies."

Isaiah 2:12

2. Verse 5 - Deeds Of Luxury And Self-Indulgence:

James 5:5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth

Literally, "to lead a life of luxury of self-indulgence, Pampered life "You have lived delicately." (Spent on self, self-focus)

and led a life of wanton pleasure;

This speaks of "wasteful indulgence."

Prodigal Son - **Luke 15:13**

The Rich Man - **Luke 16:9**

Paul used it this way in speaking of pleasure-seeking widow - **1 Timothy 5:6**

you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

Livestock that are given some of the best grain and encouraged to eat just prior to the slaughterhouse.

3. Verse 6 - Deed Of Condemning And Killing The Righteous:

James 5:6 You have condemned

This has already been shared by James.

James 2:6

put to death

This is referring to "Judicial murder," the taking away of the means of making a living.

1 Kings 21:1-16 Ahab, and Jezebel over the vineyard of Naboth.

righteous man;

A class of people. Their faith in God, their behavior

Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1; 1 Peter 3:18

he does not resist you. Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:19

Application:

1. How Did You Use Your Wealth? If We Love Riches, We Will Hate The Coming Judgment. Physical Riches Are A Bad Investment For Eternity. Hoarding Will Be Like Rust That Will Consume The Hoarder.

2. How Did You Gain Your Wealth? Was Money Gained Through Fraud? Have We Lived A Self-Indulgent Life, Wasteful Indulgence? Has Our Lifestyle Hindered Others From Living?