

# SERMON OUTLINE James 5:1-6

It's Hard to Follow Jesus When You're Rich

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## **BEING RICH IS DANGEROUS (1)**

### **JAMES'S READERS GAVE INTO THE UNGODLINESS THEIR WEALTH MADE POSSIBLE (2-6)**

*They Hoarded Their Money (2-3)*

*Their Wealth Was Gained Through Theft (4)*

*They Used Their Money To Live in Excess (5)*

*They Used Their Money to Pervert Justice (6)*

### **HOW NOT TO GIVE INTO THE ENTICEMENT OF RICHES**

*Don't Be Rich*

*Spend Time with People Who Are Not Rich*

*Have Godly Friends*

*Remember What's True*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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Most simply, this sermon is a reminder that wealth provides a constant, deceptive, and deadly temptation to trust in and treasure it above Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Who is the richest person you know? Have you noticed anything different about them other than the fact that they probably have more and nicer stuff than you? Do they seem calmer or more anxious? More confident or nervous? More happy or discontent? More prideful or humble?
3. What would you do with the money if you somehow came into \$10,000,000?
4. Have you ever found yourself wanting to be rich? Why/not? How does this text/sermon affect your answer?
5. How have you seen wealth to be dangerous (in your own life or in that of someone you know)? Have you ever seen someone with a good deal of money who didn't use it to live more extravagantly than those with less in light of their trust in Jesus?
6. Which of the four ways that James's rich readers sinned with their money have you seen most often (1) They hoarded their money, 2) They became rich through sinful means, 3) They used their money for luxury and self-indulgence, and 4) They used their money to pervert justice)?
7. Which of the ways Pastor Dave suggested to you trust in and treasure Jesus above money do you think will be the most helpful: (1) Don't be rich, 2) surround yourself with poor people, 3) have godly friends, 4) remember the truth)?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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9. Do an honest evaluation of your finances. Commit to living frugally. Make a God-honoring budget to reflect that commitment.
10. Family's needs > Church > Other gospel-centered causes. Find a gospel-centered ministry (like our missionaries or Together for Good or New Life Family Services) to partner with in whatever excess (time and money) God grants.
11. Share an example of God's financial faithfulness in your life with someone in your DG this week.
12. Read your Bible, find a specific command or promise, and find one specific way to be sacrificially generous in light of it..
13. Share the gospel with someone.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

## PRAYER POINTS

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15. Adoration. Praise God for needing nothing outside of Himself; for being entirely self-sufficient. Praise God for being supremely valuable and trustworthy. Praise God that He is the greatest treasure. Praise God for being merciful and gracious.
16. Confession. Confess any love for money. Confess any dishonest means by which you've gained money. Confess any ways you've used your money for ungodly purposes. Confess any ways in which you've trusted in or treasured money over Christ.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for grace sufficient to forgive you of any money-related sin (and every other kind of sin). Thank God for the warning James provides to avoid the dangers associated with money. Thank God for the generosity of Grace Church.
18. Supplication. Pray for the poor among us not to be mistreated and for the Church to provide generously. Pray for God's help to know how we ought to spend our extra money at Grace. Pray for all of us to use our money in such a way as to show Jesus as our greatest treasure.