



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Mirrors: The Book of James - Part 8

Warning About Riches

INTRODUCTION

This week we talked about money and how it can reveal the motivations of our hearts. If we are using our money and resources to store up treasures for ourselves in this life, it shows that our hearts are selfish and short sighted. However, the Lord desires for His people to spend their money and time for His Kingdom and His glory. James offers us a clear warning of the evil of living for ourselves while ignoring God.

BIBLE STUDY

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read James 5:1-6

Observation

1. What is the main issue that James is rebuking his readers for?

2. Why is James telling his readers to “weep and howl” for their sin?

Interpretation

1. What does it mean that “their corrosion will be evidence against you?”
2. Why is it foolish and evil to live a life of self indulgence?
3. Why is spending money for your own selfish gain dangerous according to James?

Application

1. How can you protect your heart from the corruption of greed?
2. What are ways you can leverage your money and resources for God’s Kingdom?

PRAYER

Psalm 112:1-3 “Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.”

Like James, the Psalmist is saying that it is the man of God who abounds with wisdom and riches. Obviously following Jesus does not mean you will become rich with earthly possessions. However, following Jesus means that you will have the greatest of all riches, which is Jesus Himself. With this hope in mind pray:

1. That our hearts to be in line with the Gospel in how we spend our time and resources.

2. For Mercy Church to be a church who gives incredibly generously and sacrificially.
3. That through our generosity, the Gospel would go forth and God would be glorified.

