

# *Timing Your Reward*

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • JAMES 5:1–12*

*Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.*

**James 5:1**

*Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.*

**James 5:2**



*Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*

**James 5:3**

*Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.*

**James 5:4**

*You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.  
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.*

**James 5:5**



*You have condemned and murdered the innocent one,  
who was not opposing you.*

**James 5:6**

*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.*

**James 5:7**



*You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*

**James 5:8**

*Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

**James 5:9**

*Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

**James 5:10**



*As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

**James 5:11**

*Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear — not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.*

**James 5:12**



The background of the slide features a dark teal color with a subtle pattern of olive branches and leaves. A diagonal stripe in a lighter shade of teal runs from the bottom left towards the center. The corners of the slide are accented with orange triangles.

# **The Condemnation of the Sinful Rich (5:1–6)**



It's not *that* they've accumulated wealth. It's *how* they've accumulated wealth (through exploitation) and *what* they spend it on (their own pleasure).

James does not condemn  
rich people or wealth itself.

James is not concerned with any economic theory, but with the sins of individuals.

**D. Edmond Hiebert**





The Bible is not a plea for capitalism or socialism  
but for justice and dignity.

James condemns what wealth fuels.

*But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

**1 Timothy 6:6**



*For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*

**1 Timothy 6:7**

*But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

**1 Timothy 6:8**

*Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

**1 Timothy 6:9**



*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

**1 Timothy 6:10**

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

**1 Timothy 6:17**

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

**1 Timothy 6:18**



*In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

**1 Timothy 6:19**

Jesus' unrelenting point is that it is *impossible* for one who trusts in riches to get into Heaven. While the Bible does not discourage saving and prudent provision of one's needs, it is dead set against the vast accumulation of self-directed wealth focused solely on perpetuating one's own comforts and pleasures.

**R. Kent Hughes**



*Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.*

**Deuteronomy 24:14**



*Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.*

**Deuteronomy 24:15**

James warns of an  
**unavoidable judgment.**



*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”*

**Matthew 6:19**



*“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

**Matthew 6:20**



*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

**Matthew 6:21**





# **The Exhortation of the Righteous Saints (5:7–12)**



The return of Christ is from the time of the early Church to our own day “near” or “imminent.” Every generation of Christian lives [or should live!] with the consciousness that [His return] could occur at any time and that one needs to make decisions and choose values based on that realization.

**Douglas Moo**

The coming of the Lord  
should motivate patience.



James is calling on Christians not to take the judgment of the wicked into their own hands, but to wait for God to avenge them, not to compromise their faith, [since] both giving in to the world and attacking the world are wrong.

**Peter Davids**



If the hope of the Lord's return is relegated to such a remote future that it has no present impact on our way of living, then this great Christian hope no longer exercises vital influence upon Christian living.

**D. Edmond Hiebert**

The suffering of the saints  
requires patience.



What an encouragement to know that God does not expect stoic perseverance in the midst of trials. He knows we are clay. He understands tears. He accepts our questions. But He does demand that we recognize our finiteness and acknowledge there are processes at work beyond our comprehension.

**R. Kent Hughes**



Your present suffering is not the “end” of the story. God will transform your situation for good when Christ is revealed in glory.

**Douglas Moo**

*“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”*

**Matthew 5:11**

*“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

**Matthew 5:12**



Our moral development —  
our character — is largely  
dependent upon the  
experience of suffering.  
Without trials we would be  
morally dwarfed. In fact, the  
study of the lives of great  
people reveals there is a  
consistent link between the  
crucible and true greatness.  
No wise person would seek  
to be exempt from the  
healthy discipline of trouble.

**R. Kent Hughes**

The sins of the tongue ignore  
the point of patience.



*Do everything without grumbling or arguing,*

**Philippians 2:14**



*so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”  
Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky*

**Philippians 2:15**

*as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*

**Philippians 2:16**

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.*

**1 Peter 4:7**



*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

**1 Peter 4:8**

*Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

**1 Peter 4:9**

James prohibits the use of oaths in everyday discourse to prove integrity. [The believer] ought not to use oaths, for his yes or no should be totally honest, making oaths unnecessary; truthfulness is the issue.

**Peter Davids**



*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

**Ephesians 4:15**

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.*

**Titus 2:11**

*It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,*

**Titus 2:12**



*while we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*

**Titus 2:13**

**Hoarding earthly abundance now invites misery to come. Enduring suffering now invites divine blessing to come.**