



The Book of James: Chapter 5:1-6

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹ Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.</p> <p>⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people who do not resist you.b (James 5:1-6 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure bin the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. (James 5:1-6 ESV)</p>	<p>¹ Listen all you who are rich, for it’s time to weep and howl over the misery that will overtake you! ² Your riches lie rotting, your fine clothing eaten by moths, ³ and your gold and silver are corroded as a witness against you. You have hoarded up treasure for the last days but it will become a fire to burn your flesh. ⁴ Listen! Can’t you hear the cries of the laborers over the wages you fraudulently held back from those who worked for you? The cries for justice of those you’ve cheated have reached the ears of the Lord of armies!</p> <p>⁵ You have indulged yourselves with every luxury and pleasure this world offers, but you’re only stuffing your heart full for a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered good and innocent people who had no power to defend themselves. (James 5:1-6 PASSION)</p>

- KEY WORDS...

- **Rich**

- S G4145 *plousios* 28x
- **Mounce**...rich, opulent, wealthy; the rich, Mt. 19:23, 24; 27:57; met. rich, abounding in, distinguished for, Eph. 2:4; Jas. 2:5; Rev. 2:9; 3:17; rich in glory, dignity, bliss, etc., 2 Cor. 8:9 rich, riches; wealth.
- **Vines**...“rich, wealthy,” is used (I) literally, (a) adjectivally (with a noun expressed separately) in Matt. 27:57; Luke 12:16; 14:12; 16:1, 19; (without a noun), 18:23; 19:2; (b) as a noun, singular, a “rich” man (the noun not being expressed), Matt. 19:23, 24; Mark 10:25; 12:41; Luke 16:21, 22; 18:25; Jas. 1:10, 11, “the rich,” “the rich (man);” plural, Mark 12:41, lit., “rich (ones);” Luke 6:24 (ditto); 21:1; 1 Tim. 6:17, “(them that are) rich,” lit., “(the) rich”; Jas. 2:6, RV, “the rich”; 5:1, RV, “ye rich”; Rev. 6:15 and 13:16, RV, “the rich”; (II), metaphorically, of God, Eph. 2:4 (“in mercy”); of Christ, 2 Cor. 8:9; of believers, Jas. 2:5, RV, “(to be) rich (in faith);” Rev. 2:9, of spiritual “enrichment” generally; 3:17, of a false sense of “enrichment.”

• **Treasure**

- S G2343 *thesaurizo* 8x
- **Mounce...**to collect and lay up stores or wealth, treasure, Mt. 6:19, 20; Lk. 12:21; 2 Cor. 12:14; Jas. 5:3; to heap up, accumulate, Rom. 2:5; 1 Cor. 16:2; to reserve, keep in store, 2 Pet. 3:7.
- **Vines...**denotes (1) “a place of safe keeping” (possibly akin to *tithemi*, “to put”), (a) “a casket,” Matt. 2:11; (b) “a storehouse,” Matt. 13:52; used metaphorically of the heart, Matt. 12:35, twice (RV, “out of his treasure”); Luke 6:45; (2) “a treasure,” Matt. 6:19, 20, 21; 13:44; Luke 12:33, 34; Heb. 11:26; “treasure” (in heaven or the heavens), Matt. 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 18:22; in these expressions (which are virtually equivalent to that in Matt. 6:1, “with your Father which is in Heaven”) the promise does not simply refer to the present life, but looks likewise to the hereafter; in 2 Cor. 4:7 it is used of “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,” descriptive of the gospel, as deposited in the earthen vessels of the persons who proclaim it (cf. v. 4); in Col. 2:3, of the wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ.

• **Fraud**

- S G650 *apostereo* 6x
- **Mounce...**to deprive, detach; to debar, 1 Cor. 7:5; to deprive in a bad sense, defraud, Mk. 10:19; 1 Cor. 6:7; mid. to suffer one’s self to be deprived or defrauded, 1 Cor. 6:8; pass. to be destitute or devoid of, 1 Tim. 6:5; to be unjustly withheld, Jas. 5:4.
- **Vines...**“to keep back, deprive” (*apo*, “from,” *hustereo*, “to be lacking”), is used in Jas. 5:4, “is kept back by fraud” (some mss. have *apostereo*, “to defraud”). The word is found in a papyrus writing of A.D. 42, of a bath insufficiently warmed (Moulton and Milligan, *Vocab.*). The Law required the prompt payment of the laborer, Deut. 24:15.

• **Condemned**

- S G2613 *katadikazo* 5x
- **Mounce...**to give judgment against, condemn, Mt. 12:7, 37; Lk. 6:37; Jas. 5:6.
- **Vines...**signifies “to exercise right or law against anyone”; hence, “to pronounce judgment, to condemn” (*kata*, “down, or against,” *dike*, “justice”), Matt. 12:7, 37; Luke 6:37; Jas. 5:6.

- **SELF-INDULGENCE...**

The self-indulgent man craves for all pleasant things... and is led by his appetite to choose these at the cost of everything else. ~ Aristotle

The real difference in the believer who follows Christ and has mortified his will and died after the old man in Christ, is that he is more clearly aware than other men of the rebelliousness and perennial pride of the flesh, he is conscious of his sloth and self-indulgence and knows that his arrogance must be eradicated. Hence there is a need for daily self-discipline. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To use good things to our own ends is always a false religion. ~ Richard J. Foster

There is always a limit to self-indulgence, but none to self-restraint. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

It is hard to bear with people who stand still along the way, lose heart, and seek their happiness in little pleasures which they cling to...You feel sad about all that self-indulgence and self-satisfaction, for you know with an indestructible certainty that something greater is coming. ~ Henri Nouwen

Three enemies that will weaken your ministry over time: Self-indulgence, bitterness, and carelessness. Strong people discipline their desires, restrain their reactions, and keep their commitments. ~ Rick Warren

– **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- If someone were to give you \$800,000, what would you do with it?
- What character traits do you think are most important when it comes to stewarding riches?
- What would be some of the tell-tale signs that a person's life is being ruled by riches?
- Have you ever been tempted to betray your conscience for money? What would that internal battle sound like?
- What would Jesus do with a large sum of money?
- What are some ways riches be used to advance the kingdom of God?
- Some say many in the church suffer from a "poverty mentality." What do you think and why?
- What is the difference between riches and wealth?