

TITLE: James (Lesson 24)

TEXT: James 5:1-6

INTRO: "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."  
*Proverbs 11:28*

- I. (vs. 1) A day of reckoning is coming.
  - A. Addressed to those with misplaced *trust*.

NOTE: The unbeliever (James 2:6-7) and perhaps professors within the church who were not rich toward God, but made money their god (James 4:13).

- B. Divine punishment is inevitable.

NOTE: I Tim. 6:6-11

- II. (vs. 2-3) Your riches will fail.
  - A. Earthly possessions are not permanent.

NOTE: Prov. 23:4-5

- B. God offers a better portfolio (investment).

NOTE: Matt. 6:19-21,33; Luke 12:16-21

- C. Selfishly hoarded wealth will *witness* to your greed.

NOTE: Evidence of a wasted life and resources "and shall eat your flesh like fire."

- 1. We are living in the *last days*!

NOTE: The time between Christ's first and second coming. Acts 2:14-17; Heb. 1:1-2

- III. (vs. 4) Your victims witness against you.
  - A. Those whose pay you withheld cry for justice.
  - B. The Lord of hosts hears their cries.

NOTE: The Lord Almighty commands the armies of heaven and earth. I Sam. 17:43-45

- IV. (vs. 5) Your life has been a waste.
  - A. You have lived in luxury and indulgence *on the earth*.

- 1. Everything you have accumulated will perish.

NOTE: God is not against money, pleasure, or having nice things. However we are warned as Christians not to adopt the world's standards. See Rom. 12:1-2

- B. "you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."

NOTE: Matt. 6:21; 16:26

- V. (vs. 6) Your day of calling the shots will be over.
  - A. Guilty of murder!

- 1. The oppression of the poor in taking away their livelihood.

NOTE: "James is confronting a mind-set that treats others without regard for their dignity, conspires to cheat them out of everything, defrauds them of possessions and wages, and disregards the very lives of those who have been mistreated." *LABC*

- B. The defenseless poor only hope is to cry out to God!

NOTE: "James, with the fervor of an Old Testament prophet, reminds the unscrupulous rich people of this world that their wicked oppression of the poor does not go unnoticed."