



Compare "weep and howl" here to "Be wretched and mourn and weep" from the previous chapter (4:9)

Deep in the Bible Study of James (5:1-6)

The Case Against the Rich (1-6)

Who are the Rich? (1)

*Most of us are **rich** by the world's standards

*The key is...are we putting faith in wealth?

-1 Timothy 6:17-19

Exhibit 1: Corrosion (2-3)

*We have hoarded so much of the world's goods that they have corroded.

*This is exactly what Jesus said would happen if we made the treasure of this world our priority

-Matthew 6:19-21

-James 1:9-11

Exhibit 2: Crying (4)

*This second piece of evidence are the cries of those who have been defrauded by our greed

-Gen 4:9-13

-Ex 3:7

Exhibit 3: Carnality (5)

*In our desire for pleasure we use our wealth to pursue fleshly desires and live indulgently.

-Luke 12:13-21

Exhibit 4: Condemnation (6)

*Much like **Exhibit 2**, this final piece of evidence comes from letting our greed cause us to mistreat others.

James 5:1-6

Judgment



1 Come now, you rich, *weep and howl* for the **miseries** that are coming upon you.

A consistent message of scripture is that we will only seek God if we believe that we need him (**Matthew 5:3**)

2 Your riches have **rotted** and your garments are **moth-eaten**.



Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal..."

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* in the **last days**.

<- "Last Days" - Last way in which God deals with man. From Christ's birth until his return. (**Heb 1:1-2; 1Jn 2:18**)

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.

<- **Lord of hosts** - **Deut 4:19; 1Sam 17:45; 2Ch 18:18**: The rich **WILL NOT** hear the cries of the defrauded, but **GOD WILL**. Those who mistreat others will one day face the full judgment from the **Lord of ALL creation**!

5 You have lived on the earth in **luxury** and in **self-indulgence**. You have *fattened your hearts* in a **day of slaughter**.

<- We are fattening ourselves up like an animal headed to slaughter

*Judgment - **Jeremiah 12:3**

6 You have **condemned and murdered the righteous person**. He does not resist you.

James 4:2

What Do We Do?

*We must recognize that we have turned our wealth into the object of our faith (and worship), and this path will only lead to destruction (**5:1**).

*We must go back to mourning our sinful condition (**4:9**), realizing that wealth cannot save us.

Do We Need God?

*Our wealth can become the object of our faith and blind us to the need for God...



*If this happens, we should "weep and howl" for the coming judgment

Mt 19:16-24; Mk 10:17-27

"evidence against you"

*There is nothing wrong with using our wealth to take care of our family & prepare for the future (**Jn 19:26-27**), but...

*God expects us to use the resources He has entrusted us with to further His Kingdom.

*If instead, we hoard these things thinking that they will bring us happiness, their decay becomes **a testament** to our misplaced faith.

-**Luke 12:13-21**

"kept back by fraud"

*The more we believe wealth will bring us happiness, the more we are tempted by our greed to mistreat others to keep more for ourselves.

-**Leviticus 19:13**

-**Jeremiah 22:13**

-**Malachi 3:5**

"self-indulgence"

*Something he had warned against back in chapter **1:21, 27**.

"condemned"

*He may be referring to taking the poor to court, where they were being declared guilty and possibly condemned to death even though they are innocent.

-Compare to **2:5-7**

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.