**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 in 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

(I’m going to read the text then do my intro and then read the whole passage again).

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

**What does this passage teach us about God?**

**(1) He sees the oppressed and hears their cries for justice!**

 **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.

 **(2) He will avenge His people who’ve been treated unjustly!**

**5**This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— **6**since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7**and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels **8**in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8

**How does James 5 help us to not misuse money and possessions?**

**(1) It reminds us that wealth is fleeting.**

**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 in the last days.

**(2) It encourages us to live simply and give generously.**

**(3) It shows that if truly we live in light of Christ’s imminent return, we won’t misuse wealth.**