



# PV Household Worship

May 14-19, 2018

❖ **Daily Memory Verse: James 4:17**

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

❖ **Song: Christ The Sure and Steady Anchor**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eD9FiYCLKDM>

**Monday, May 14, "Loving money comes with a price."**

Read James 4:13-5:6

James 5:1 says, *"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you."* Author John Steinbeck wrote an interesting novel titled *"The Pearl"*. The story tells of a very poor man who was a pearl diver. All his life he dreamed of finding the perfect pearl. One day he actually finds it. The rest of the novel reveals how his once simple and peaceful life turns into a growing nightmare as everyone else desperately tries to take his treasure from him. James chapter 5 opens with the author assuming the role of Old Testament prophet, crying out against the rich who oppress the poor. James warns of a wrath that is to come upon those who love and trust material wealth above the Sovereign God. His warning is aimed at those whose hearts are consumed by the riches of this world. It's easy when you're poor and oppressed to think, *"If I can just get rich, I will no longer have to deal with any problems!"* So we pursue wealth, mistakenly thinking that happiness lies in material possessions. To the church, James is saying that wealth can be a dangerous trap. He strongly cautions us not to use it in an ungodly manner, but rather to look to God and be faithful to His word. Money itself is not evil, but it is like fire. Used properly and under control, fire is helpful. But if it is used carelessly or with evil intent, it can become a powerful force that destroys lives. When combined with the fallen, greedy, selfish human heart, money can quickly corrupt, and for those caught in its trap, judgment is coming!

- Is it wrong to have wealth? Are all who are rich being condemned here?
- What do you think the main issue is in James 5:1-6?
- Memory Verse James 4:17
- Prayer - Father, please guard my heart from loving and trusting wealth more than You.

**Tuesday, May 15, "To trust in wealth as the solution to your deepest needs is sheer folly!"**

Read James 4:13-5:6

James 5:2, 3 says, *"Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 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."* In James' day there were three main indicators of wealth. First, there was grain. You could store it in large bins or silos. But James says it will rot. Second, there was clothing. The poor only had the clothes on their backs. It was a sign of wealth to have more than one set of clothing. James warns that clothes are subject to the ruin of moths. Third, there was gold and silver. James says when God brings judgment, even these precious metals will be doomed to corruption. What good is all the gold and silver in the world if your flesh is being destroyed by fire? Money, material things, and wealth are all temporary, but misery and judgment for those who replace God is eternal. To love and pursue wealth to the

neglect of pursuing God or to trust in wealth as the solution to your deepest needs is sheer folly! Since misuse of wealth will bring a person into horrible judgment and misery, we should make sure that we do not profess to know God, but by our ungodly use of wealth deny Him.

- Why is it futile to put our trust in material wealth?
- Read Luke 12:13-21. How is this passage similar to James 5:1-6? How is it different?
- Memory Verse James 4:17
- Prayer - Father, help me to understand that everything on earth is passing away, but You are eternal.

**Wednesday, May 16, "Have you ever worked hard and never got paid?"** Read James 4:13-5:6

Have you ever worked hard and never got paid? Imagine being very poor and counting on that pay check to simply buy food for your family. Without the money, you would be unable to eat. James 5:4 says, *"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."* God takes very seriously withholding payment from workers or selfishly delaying to pay a wage that someone has earned. Deuteronomy 24:14 and 15 reflects the heart of God on this issue when it says, *"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. 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."* Some people love their wealth so much that they have a hard time letting go of it even when it is owed to someone else. They keep it a little while longer so they can gain a little more interest. God calls this SIN. Remember James' words at the end of chapter 4? *"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."* Our God is a generous King who freely gave His Son up for us. May He pour out His grace on His people that we would not only give what we owe others, but bless others far more than what is expected!

- Why do you think God is so concerned about paying people what we owe them as soon as the job is finished?
- Read Leviticus 19:13; Proverbs 3:27, 28; Jeremiah 22:13, 14; Malachi 3:5. How do these verses support James 5:4?
- Memory Verse James 4:17
- Prayer - Father, please guard my heart against greed and fraud towards others. Help me to be generous and giving.

**Thursday, May 17, "God blesses us so that we can bless others."** Read James 4:13-5:6

James 5:5 says, *"You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."* These words are similar to the words of Jesus in Luke 16:19-31. He tells the story of a rich man and a poor beggar named Lazarus. The rich man lived in splendor, while Lazarus, covered with sores, longed to be fed with the crumbs from this rich man's table. But after death, their roles were reversed. The rich man was in agony in the flames of hell, whereas Lazarus was comfortably in Abraham's bosom. The point of that story was not that all rich people go to hell and that all poor people go to heaven. The Bible is clear that there are godly rich people and there are ungodly poor people. Salvation is by grace through faith in

Christ alone. The rich man's selfish indulgence and lack of compassion for the poor and less fortunate reflected his godless, selfish focus in life. His wealth was his god. James' indictment of fattening hearts in a day of slaughter points to the certainty of the day of judgment. Like cattle, they just go on eating as much as you set before them, fattening themselves with no thought of others. But their selfish lifestyles only incur greater condemnation. God blesses us with more than what we need so that we will in turn share with those who lack.

- Most Americans are rich by worldly standards. How can we know when we're guilty of living in luxury?
- How can we know when we cross the line from wise savings for the future versus ungodly hoarding?
- Is it wrong for a Christian to own nice things or to buy non-necessary items in the face of so many needs in the world? (try to support your answer with scripture)
- Memory Verse James 4:17
- Prayer - Father, deliver me from thinking I deserve luxury and ease. Help me to use my excess to help someone else's lack.

**Friday, May 18, "Am I using God's gifts to me for the benefit of others?"** Read James 4:13-5:6  
 James 5:6 says, *"You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you."* When we use the wealth that God gives in selfish ungodly ways, we harm others and bring God's judgment upon ourselves. The rich people James is talking to here were obviously misusing their wealth. They were hoarding their riches, and they were cheating their workers. While living in luxury and wastefulness, they did not hear the cries of the needy. But God heard, and he tells the rich who have been selfish that their wealth will not last. Wealth can grow calluses and make us indifferent to the needs of others, even to the point of harm. It can give us a false sense of security and power and lead us to take advantage of others. When it comes to wealth and God, you must make a choice as to whom you will serve. In Matthew 6:24 Jesus says, *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."* Throughout the years I have met people who understood that having wealth is a privilege and a stewardship. While enjoying part of the blessing for themselves and their families, much of their wealth is given back to God—to help build his kingdom or to make life easier for others. People who have been blessed with wealth need to ask four questions: How did I get my wealth? How do I use my wealth? Is my wealth invested in God's kingdom? And am I using God's gifts to me for the benefit of others?

- Read Matthew 6:19-24. How are the words of Jesus here similar to the words of James? How are they different?
- Memory Verse James 4:17
- Prayer – Lord, pour out Your grace and help me to do the "right" things that bring glory to You.

**Saturday, May 19, Read James 5:7-11**

**Review memory verse.**

**Prayer:** Father, make us ready to hear your Word. Reveal your truth to our hearts. Give us grace to listen and obey. Bind the enemy of our souls and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us joy as we meet with your people for doctrine, prayer, and worship.