

James 5:1-6, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - The Bible Talks About Money.

James 5:1-6

The Bible has a lot to say about money. In fact, there are more verses in the Bible about money than any other single topic. Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:24). Someone has defined mammon (i.e. money) as, “The god of the world’s leading religion.” Christian, do you possess your possessions, or do your possessions possess you? Money is a good servant, but a bad master.

Read 1 Timothy 6:7-10, 17-18

☐ Tuesday - Money Can't Buy Happiness.

James 5:1

King Solomon had it all. He was the richest man on earth from 970-931 BC. The book of *Ecclesiastes* is Solomon’s autobiography chronicling his search for satisfaction through wine, women, wealth, wisdom and work. This was his conclusion, “I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings ... Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind” (Eccl. 2:8, 11). Solomon proved that money can’t buy happiness, but the pursuit of it can cause great misery (Jam. 5:1), and grief (1 Tim. 6:10).

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10

☐ Wednesday - Eternal Treasures.

James 5:2-3

James writes to those who have set their hopes on earthly wealth, “Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted” (Jam. 5:2-3). These words remind us of those Jesus’ spoke on His Sermon on the Mount, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19-21). Where is your treasure, friend?

Read Colossians 3:1-3

☐ Thursday - Malediction for Misers.

James 5:2-3

In Charles Dickens’ 1843 novel, *A Christmas Carol*, the miser Ebenezer Scrooge is shown his future so that he might amend his ways. Here in James’ epistle a similar warning of the future is given to such people. James declares, “Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire” (James 5:2-3). Money is not evil, but rather “the *love of money* is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (1 Tim. 6:10). Jesus said, “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36).

Read Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:16-21; Col. 3:1-3

☐ Friday - A Just Wage.

James 5:4

James writes, “Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth” (Jam. 5:4). Elsewhere we read, “Woe to him ... who uses his neighbor’s services without pay and does not give him his wages” (Jer. 22:13). Christian, here is a tangible way that you can be a light: always pay the full amount for services rendered.

Read Deuteronomy 24:14-15