

The Luxury that Leads to Misery

James 5:1-6

November 5th, 2025

Theme: Those who poorly steward God's gift of wealth will be spiritually bankrupt and miserable for all eternity.

James condemns five sins characterizing rich unbelievers, that should cause each of us to examine how we handle wealth:

- I. Disregarding their fate (1)**

- II. Hoarding their wealth (vs. 2-3)**

- III. Defrauding the poor (vs. 4)**

- IV. Pursuing lavish pleasures (vs. 5)**

- V. Condemning the poor (vs. 6)**

Small Group Questions

1. Is it inherently sinful to be wealthy? Discuss.
2. What does it look like to sinfully hoard wealth? What opposite virtue should characterize believers? How can you practically plan to put on that virtue as you begin your careers & in the future?
3. While we may not regularly defraud/murder the poor, how can we seek to be just & apply vs. 4 & 6?
4. What are ways that the average American, your peers, and even yourself at times may seek to "live luxuriously on the earth"? What about "live lives of wanton pleasure"? Can you consistently seek after this kind of life while still faithfully serving God?
5. If unbelievers are characterized by James as seeking luxuries and pleasures, what should believers seek after? Is there pleasure in what we seek for? Read Psalms 16 (esp. vs. 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, 11).