

There are two ways to look at James 5:1-6—two perspectives that are important to notice. James is speaking directly to the wealthy, but obviously not assuming everyone in his readership is in this place. There are those who are cheated by the wealthy as well.

10. a. What can we observe about the poor “righteous man” in this section?

- b. In what ways does the “righteous man” in this passage describe or exemplify the only truly righteous One—the Lord Jesus Christ?

For Thought and Discussion

The judgment that James proclaims in this passage can serve as a warning to all of us. While wealth is not sinful in itself, our natural sinful desires often come to fruition at the prospect of getting more of it.

11. What do you learn about the proper view and use of money from the following Scriptures?
1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; Proverbs 30:8b-9; Matthew 6:19-21, 19:24; Luke 12:16-21, 16:13

12. What needs to change in your view of money and wealth and how to handle it?

13. What are some ways that we can monitor ourselves to see if we are falling into the “love of money” trap?

In view of James' stern proclamations to the rich in 5:1-6, he turns now and addresses the "brethren" who were suffering at their hands. **Reread** James 5:7-11. Notice the dramatic change in tone.

14. Look for and mark the key words and phrases in this section. List your findings.

15. How is the backdrop of the Lord's coming significant to both the rich and to those who were suffering unjustly?

James comes full circle as he begins the final summations of his letter—returning to the same theme he wrote about in the opening verses. (**Compare** James 1:2-4 with James 5:7-11.) How can Christians experience this kind of patient endurance as we wait for the Lord to return? To answer that question James provides three encouraging examples of the *power of godly patience*.

16. In what ways can you learn patience from the farmer, the prophets (Jeremiah 20:1-18), and Job (Job 1:1-2:11)?

17. Remaining patient under trials is a powerful testimony of sincere faith! Yet patience is not a quality we naturally possess. How are we able to endure patiently (Galatians 5:22-23)?

18. In all of life's experiences what does God want us to learn about Him (James 5:11c)?

James accurately and emotionally reflects the righteous heart of the Lord of Hosts, just as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and those prophetic peers once did. He understands that we all face trials. That we will rub shoulders with people whose hearts are set on evil and those who would condemn us for our faith. *But be patient! Endure to the end! Keep loving people with the supernatural love that only Jesus can produce in us—for the crown of life awaits those who keep the faith to the end. And the Judge is coming to bring justice and to make all things right!*