

## THE RICH FOOL!

James 5:1-8

INTRODUCTION: The apostle James knew you can measure a man by his attitude toward his money. The question is "Do we own what the Lord places in our hands and wallets or are we simply stewards of the gifts our Lord gives us?" We measure men by the money they make. Our Lord measures men by the way they make and use the money the Lord brings into their lives. 1 Timothy 6:6-12. Our God does not condemn being wealthy only the love of money. 1 Chronicles 29:28; Matthew 27:57-58. The source of all wealth is God: 1 Chronicles 29:12; Deuteronomy 8:18.

### I. THE WICKED LOVE OF MONEY!

James 5:3: These are people who are making money, lots of money just to have more money! Money that is hoarded, loved, and stockpiled in greed and covetousness rots a man on the inside and ruins that man on the outside. Luke 12:15-21. Money increased only for self will destroy a man: Colossians 3:5-6; Exodus 20:3, 17. If a man is covetous he is also an idolater and has broken both the last and the first commandment. God gives us money so we can spread it around: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12; Luke 6:38; Ecclesiastes 5:13; James 5:1-3; Luke 16:10-13.

### II. THE DISGUSTING HORDING OF MONEY!

James 5:4: You see when you love money you have more than one problem. Not only were they hording money, they were making their money by cheating others. James 5:6. Often rich people think those who have the gold rule! .

### III. THE SELFISH DISTRIBUTION OF OUR MONEY!

James 5:5: these people not only made their money illegally they also spent their money unethically. They spent their money with no care, no compassion and no conscience. 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Our Lord wants us to enjoy the good things He makes available to each of us. James 1:17. Our money is dangerous because of what it can do to us! One day each of us will give an account to our God for how we have used our money. James 5:1; James 5:2-3. One day our money will rise us and either witness for us or against us depending on how we made our money and how we used our money. James 5:4. Often on this earth the poor do not get a fair hearing, but in heaven at the judgment the poor will get a fair hearing and so will the unjust rich.

### IV. THE GODLY USE OF THE MONEY OUR LORD PUTS INTO OUR HANDS!

James 5:7; Therefore is used here to help us see that if we will take our money and sow it in the field of service for God and the good of others it will bear fruit for righteousness both now and in the ages to come. It is true you cannot take your money with you but you can send it on ahead. Matthew 6:19-21. We need to invest our money into the kingdom of God in the saving of souls and teaching people how to live to honor their God. Luke 16:9. Remember the real measure of a man is not how much he has but how much he gives from what he has. 2 Corinthians 9:6-12.