

Do You Hear Their Cries?

James 5:1-6

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◆ **James 5:1-6** - - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 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. 4 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. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Weep and Wail – Misery is Coming

- ◆ **James 5:1** - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

Weep and Wail – Misery is Coming

- ◆ **Isaiah 13:6** - 6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!
- ◆ **Isaiah 15:3** - 3 ...in the streets they wear sackcloth; on the housetops and in the squares everyone wails and melts in tears.
- ◆ **Amos 8:3** - 3 The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day declares the Lord God.

Weep and Wail – Misery is Coming

- ◆ **Matthew 13:28** - 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.

Hoarding

- ◆ **James 5:2-3** - 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 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.
- ◆ **Ecclesiastes 5:10-11** - 10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

Sell Your Possessions and Give to the Needy

- ◆ **Luke 12:33-34** - 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Crying Out of the Laborers

- ◆ **James 5:4** - 4 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.

Do Not Oppress the Worker

◆ **Deuteronomy 24:14-15** - 14 “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. 15 You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin.

Luxury and Self-Indulgence in Day of Slaughter

- ◆ **James 5:5** - 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

Riches Are No Profit in the Day of Wrath

- ◆ **Proverbs 11:4** - 4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

Condemned and Murdered the Righteous Person

- ◆ **James 5:6** - 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

God Will Hear the Cries of the Afflicted

- ◆ **Jeremiah 22:17** - 17 But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.”
- ◆ **Psalms 107:6** - 6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Steps to be Rich Towards God

◆ HONOR GOD

- ◆ **Proverbs 14:31** - 31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.
- ◆ Make Every Effort to Ensure the Dignity of All Persons who are created in the image of God.

Steps to be Rich Towards God

◆ DO GOOD TO EVERYONE

- ◆ **Galatians 6:10** - 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- ◆ Show no favoritism. Treat everyone with respect and honor and compassion
- ◆ Tip generously, donate items to those in need, buy food for the poor
- ◆ Set the Christian Example for Everyone

Steps to be Rich Towards God

◆ GIVE GENEROUSLY

◆ **Proverbs 19:17** - 17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.