

## ▼ “Maranatha!” - James, Part 20

- Text: James 5:1-11

- James 5

1 Come now, you rich people! Weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you. 2 Your wealth is ruined and your clothes are moth-eaten. 3 Your silver and gold are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You stored up treasure in the last days! 4 Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who reaped your fields cries out, and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the land and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned—you have murdered—the righteous man; he does not resist you.

### ▼ A Biblical theology of wealth.

#### ▼ James on Wealth:

- James 1:10-11

...but the one who is rich should boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will wither away while pursuing his activities.

#### ▼ James 2:5

Listen, my dear brothers: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that He has promised to those who love Him? 6 Yet you dishonored that poor man. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Don't they blaspheme the noble name that was pronounced over you at your baptism?

- Strike 2

#### ▼ James 5

Come now, you rich people! Weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you.... You stored up treasure in the last days

- Strike 3!

#### ▼ Jesus on Wealth

- Matthew 6:19-21

“Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Matthew 19:21-24

“If you want to be perfect,” Jesus said to him, “go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.” When the young man heard that command, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, “I assure you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven! Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

- Luke 6:24

“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your comfort.”

#### ▼ Luke 8:14

“As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit.”

- RICHES choke the Word, along with worries AND Pleasures. Ponder that!

- Matt 13:22

“Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the seduction of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

- Luke 12:15

He then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”

- Rev 3:17  
Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked

▼ **The Rest of the Bible:**

- 1 Timothy 6:9  
But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction.
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19  
Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good reserve for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.
- Ezekiel 28  
1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre: This is what the Lord God says:

Your heart is proud,  
and you have said, 'I am a god;  
I sit in the seat of gods  
in the heart of the sea.'  
Yet you are a man and not a god,  
though you have regarded your heart  
as that of a god.

3 Yes, you are wiser than Daniel;  
no secret is hidden from you!

4 By your wisdom and understanding  
you have acquired wealth for yourself.  
You have acquired gold and silver  
for your treasuries.

5 By your great skill in trading  
you have increased your wealth,  
but your heart has become proud  
because of your wealth."

6 Therefore this is what the Lord God says:

Because you regard your heart as that of a god,  
7 I am about to bring strangers against you,  
ruthless men from the nations.

They will draw their swords  
against your magnificent wisdom  
and will defile your splendor.

8 They will bring you down to the Pit,  
and you will die a violent death  
in the heart of the sea.

9 Will you still say, 'I am a god,'  
in the presence of those who kill you?  
Yet you will be only a man, not a god,  
in the hands of those who kill you.

10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised  
at the hands of strangers.

For I have spoken.

This is the declaration of the Lord God.

11 The word of the Lord came to me: 12 "Son of man, lament for the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Lord God says:

You were the seal of perfection,  
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God.  
Every kind of precious stone covered you:  
carnelian, topaz, and diamond,  
beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
sapphire, turquoise and emerald.

Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold;  
they were prepared on the day you were created.

14 You were an anointed guardian cherub,  
for I had appointed you.

You were on the holy mountain of God;  
you walked among the fiery stones.

15 From the day you were created  
you were blameless in your ways  
until wickedness was found in you.

16 Through the abundance of your trade,

Can you be a Christian and be rich? YES - The Bible names at least TWO rich Christians...Can you name them? Zaccheus and Joseph of Arimathea. Zacch. Did lose more than half of his wealth, upon becoming a Christ-follower. "But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord! And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much!" Luke 19.

#### ▼ KEY POINT OF JAMES 5: You stored up treasure in the last days...

- Matthew 6 - DON'T collect treasures on Earth - 18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good reserve for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.

#### ▼ James 5:9

Brothers, do not complain about one another, so that you will not be judged. Look, the judge stands at the door!

- ▼ Illustration: Run ins with the law - picked up twice by the police before I was 13. (once for robbery, once for arson - flame-throwing) Pulled over for making a face at an officer once when I was driving in Vestavia (at age 18) Caught, Tombstone style, by a group of police officers when trespassing in Inverness. After I stole a boat. And fell in the water. It is colossally stupid to misbehave in front of the law - police officers, or Judges. What happens when you complain about each other? YOU WILL BE JUDGED. Where is the Judge? AT THE DOOR! How does the Judge feel about complaining?? (Remember the snakes last week?!?)

- LET'S Pick a Random Chapter from the Bible. (Spin the wheel...)

- AH - Numbers 11

1 Now the people began complaining openly before the Lord about hardship. When the Lord heard, His anger burned, and fire from the Lord blazed among them and consumed the outskirts of the camp. 2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. 3 So that place was named Taberah, (PLACE OF BURNING) because the Lord's fire had blazed among them.

#### ▼ SURELY THEY WONT COMPLAIN ANY MORE!

- Numbers 11:4 Contemptible people among them had a strong craving for other food. The Israelites cried again and said, "Who will feed us meat?"

#### ▼ MOSES THE DRAMA QUEEN:

- ▼ Numbers 11:13-15 Where can I get meat to give all these people? For they are crying to me: 'Give us meat to eat!' I can't carry all these people by myself. They are too much for me. If you are going to treat me like this, please kill me right now. If you are pleased with me, don't let me see my misery anymore."

- Elijah also asked God to kill him, Job, Jonah (twice!)

#### ▼ God Answers

- Numbers 11:18-20 "Tell the people: Purify yourselves in readiness for tomorrow, and you will eat meat because you cried before the Lord: 'Who will feed us meat? We really had it good in Egypt.' The Lord will give you meat and you will eat. You will eat, not for one day, or two days, or five days, or 10 days, or 20 days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes nauseating to you—because you have rejected the Lord who is among you, and cried to Him: 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'"
- Moses Questions "Where are you going to get all of that meat??" God Answers, Numbers 11:23 The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's power limited? You will see whether or not what I have promised will happen to you."
- Numbers 11:31-32  
A wind sent by the Lord came up and blew quail in from the sea; it dropped them at the camp all around, three feet off the ground, about a day's journey in every direction. The people were up all that day and night and all the next day gathering the quail—the one who took the least gathered 50 bushels—and they spread them out all around the camp.
- ▼ Numbers 11:33-34  
While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the Lord's anger burned against the people, and the Lord

struck them with a very severe plague. So they named that place Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved the meat.

- KIBROTH HATTA AVAH = Graves of Craving.

- The FLIP of James 5:9 is Philippians 4:5 “5 Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”

#### ▼ Close:

##### ▼ James 5:7-8

Therefore, brothers, be patient until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near. [...] 11 The Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

- James is writing to the tribes of Israel, dispersed across the continent by persecution. They are mostly poor, and are currently enduring painful trials. They are struggling to control their words - their tongue, they are struggling with favoritism shown to the rich. They are learning to walk in Faith AND Works, They are learning to be wise AND gentle, They are fighting against the cravings of the flesh and the desire for the world, and they are learning to love each other and neither judge wrongly or criticize each other. They are being oppressed by the powerful, and learning that they do not control the big details of their life, or the small ones. (My summary of James) They sound so much like us!!! And James knows that it is hard. Life is hard. It is perilous. So many things to stumble over. So many sins to commit. So many persecutions and trials and oppressors. So many reasons to lose hope. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU GIVEN UP OR LOST HOPE THIS WEEK?? (I've wanted to give up 1-2 times - Not MOSES give up...that's rare...but go hide in a cave...at the beach give up.) On any given week, I have about a seventy-five percent chance of at least one gloomy day and a Level three (orange/enhanced) or level 4 (moderate/red) chance of microbursts of “I'M DONE WITH ALL OF THIS.” And I'm an optimist! What does James say??

##### ▼ James 5:8

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near... The Lord is very compassionate and merciful

- Oh man. What a relief. Hang on - strengthen your hearts in Christ, because His coming is NEAR. The Lord is Very Compassionate and Merciful.
- 1 Corinthians 16  
22 Maranatha that is, Lord, come! 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.
- Rev 22  
17 Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Anyone who hears should say, “Come!” And the one who is thirsty should come. Whoever desires should take the living water as a gift...  
20 He who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus[h] be with all the saints.[i] Amen.
- Joel 2  
23 Children of Zion, rejoice and be glad  
in the Lord your God,  
because He gives you the autumn rain  
for your vindication.  
He sends showers for you,  
both autumn and spring rain as before.  
24 The threshing floors will be full of grain,  
and the vats will overflow  
with new wine and olive oil.  
25 I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust ate,  
the young locust, the destroying locust,  
and the devouring locust—  
My great army that I sent against you.  
26 You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied.  
You will praise the name of Yahweh your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
My people will never again be put to shame.  
27 You will know that I am present in Israel  
and that I am Yahweh your God,  
and there is no other.  
My people will never again be put to shame.  
28 After this

I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity;  
then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will have dreams,  
and your young men will see visions.

29 I will even pour out My Spirit  
on the male and female slaves in those days.

30 I will display wonders  
in the heavens and on the earth:  
blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

31 The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the Lord comes.

32 Then everyone who calls  
on the name of Yahweh will be saved,