

#10 The problem with wealth

Introduction:

As Christians - which is who James is writing to - we are to live “Counter Culturally” In order to show us what that looks like in regard to our wealth, James uses some strong imagery in this passage. Rich people are likened to cows that are fattening themselves up for the day of slaughter. He’s not speaking against wealth in and of itself, nor the wealthy, but our identity, security and power to all of life’s issues.

Most of us don’t think of ourselves as rich, do we? We’re always looking at someone else who has more, and we say, “Go after them, James. They’re the problem.” But whenever we come to Scripture, we want to see what’s there for us. God wants to speak to us, and we need to be ready to listen, even if it’s uncomfortable.

Play and listen to... “Christ is Enough” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7hy6WBI7TM> - make this a confession of your life and let it lead into prayer.

Pray... for a generosity of spirit to happen at our church.

Read: James 5:1-6

Play video: <https://youtu.be/YKYRsvjHZmk>

Share for 1 min each what your “take away” thought is from this video

Thoughts to share:

- Read James 4:17. This verse applies to the verses that follow. That makes our wealth “scary”. How should we view our wealth in the light of this verse?
- As consumers, are we consumed with Christ and His return, or consumed with the more that we can get here on earth?
- How can we break the mastery of money in our lives? How can we center our hearts on God rather than wealth?
- Examine your household budget. How do your expenditures reflect your spiritual priorities? What might need to change?
- Jon Charlton said in his message - “ ...the first problem with wealth is it takes the place of faith.” How have you seen this play out in your life or others?

Consider....

Take a long look at the hold money, or the things that money can buy like clothes, holidays, homes etc... and ask God to show you if you have money or does money have you. God’s not that interested in what you spend or what you keep. He’s interested in your heart and whether you trust in God to supply all your needs. Otherwise, your wealth could work against you in your faith journey, but also as you stand before God.

Pray... That God would reveal the truth in your soul about the hold that money and possessions has.