

**Lament and Be Saved, v. 1**

- I. James now addresses the rich and unbelieving landowners, who have accumulated massive wealth through unjust and criminal means.
  - A. This is a similar call throughout the OT calling pagan nations and Israel to repent of their injustice (Isa. 1), as it was in God's law, that Israel was to treat the poor with justice.
    - A.1. Why? Because God cares for those who cannot care for themselves as it points to the spiritual nature of his people.
      - A.1.a) James now runs into the same sort of people that Jesus ran into (Luke 6.24-26).
        - (A.1.a.1) They love money and not God (1 Tim. 6.10; Matt.19.23) but our riches and worldly possessions can be a hindrance to true discipleship, because we are resting in what we own rather than in the One who owns us.

**Allow Things to Pass Away, v. 2-3**

- I. Riches, garments, gold and silver are of no value in comparison to the riches we can store up in heaven.
  - A. 1 Tim. 6.7; 2 Tim. 4.13. Our favorite possessions can become idols that we worship rather than things to be used for good; for ourselves or for others.
    - A.1. Matt. 6.19-21. We are in the last days and our material wealth and possessions are not reliable to provide a foundation for eternal life with God. But God is reliable. We can use earthly riches for eternal treasures.
      - A.1.a) Gathering worldly treasures take up so much time that when they vanish it can be devastating, and it is a witness to how much time we have wasted in worshipping false idols. It is not only a misuse of our time but also a misuse of our wealth.
        - (A.1.a.1) If we have ever known as the Psalmist knows, when I kept silent and didn't confess and turn to God (Ps. 32.3), my bones wasted away, it will be far worse for those who refuse to turn to God and repent of this sin (Luke 16.19-31). What are we doing

with our possessions? Using them for good or hoarding them for evil?

(A.1.a.1.a) 1 Tim. 6.17-19

**Hear the Cries of the People, v. 4-6**

- I. Throughout the OT and NT, Christians are called to be a just people. It is to reflect our God. We are called to care for others as Christ cares for you. And he gives warning to those who would steal from the mouths of those under their care.
  - A. This should call us to never envy the fortune of others.
  - B. And that God is the ultimate avenger of wrongs.
- II. They broke the law (Deut. 24.14-15), because to withhold one day's pay may lead to someone starving to death.
  - A. Free or slave, we are called to be a just people, giving to others what is their due and not hoarding our wealth (Eph. 6.9; 1 Tim. 5.18). God's mercy reigns on us each day. Why not do the same for others? To disregard this call would be to disregard the gospel.
    - A.1. When we live in luxury there is the danger of self-indulgence.
      - A.1.a) But it will reap its own rewards, storing up wrath for judgment day.
        - (A.1.a.1) These are the same sins of man against man (Gen. 4.10) and it is considered murder. They used their wealth to deprive others of their right to live. If we live a certain way with certain benefits, would we want others to live this way?
          - (A.1.a.1.a) Our greed deprives others of their lives. And it is the same sin when we try to overpower others weaker than ourselves when we know they cannot and will not resist us, with manipulation and deceit.
            - A.1.a.1.a.i) But think of all the riches we have in Christ (John 14.2). What are the riches of this world? What are the places of power in this world in comparison to Christ and what he has promised to give us? Amen.