



## 11. Don't let wealth blind you

James 5:1-6

- On a global scale, we're rich
- However James' main aim is to encourage struggling Christians
- He's not condemning wealth in and of itself – but the misuse of it

### 1. **Don't let wealth blind you to true riches (vs 1-3a)**

#### a. **It blinds the rich**

- v1 is completely opposite to the world's way of thinking – it thinks that the rich are those who have made it.
- These rich people are blind because they don't have the one treasure that really matters: Jesus

#### b. **It blinds the rest of us**

- The danger of always wanting just a bit more
- The reason this passage is here is so that we wouldn't envy the rich.

### 2. **Don't let wealth blind you to true priorities (vs 3, 5)**

- Rich people not being condemned for being rich, but for not being good stewards of God's money.
- They have laid up ('hoarded') treasure on earth – not in Heaven.
- A life of luxury and self-indulgence doesn't result in the self-denial Jesus demands.
- There's a place for saving - but don't let it become your security.
- Don't fatten yourself in a day of slaughter - use money for gospel purposes

### 3. **Don't let wealth blind you to others' need (vs 4a, 6)**

- Just like today, those with money and power were able to exploit those under them
- Are we honest when we sell things and do we pay what we owe?
- Affluence – or the desire for it – opens the door to carelessness and insensitivity to what is both due to and needed by others.

### 4. **Don't let wealth blind you to Jesus (vs 4b, 6)**

- To mess with Jesus' people is to mess with Jesus.
- If suffering at the hands of others – remember your big brother's coming.
- v6 ultimately speaks of Jesus
- He came to rescue us from the need to desperately chase after what we don't have – or to cling to what we do.
- Because of him we can live for things that will still matter in 1000 years.



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sunday 17th June '12

#### Notices

Sunday	Missionary Prayer time at Day Centre	8pm
Tues	Midweek Study - Chapter 3 of Westminster Confession of Faith at Colin & Caroline's	8pm

Mark will be away on holidays 1st and 8th July. Philip Dunwoody (studying for the ministry), and Rev. Tim Donachie will be taking the services. If you are able to provide lunch please speak to Mark or Judith.

Contact Rev Stephen Wright 074 9147431 (1st week) or Rev Steven Robinson 048 7130 2363 (2nd week) if there are any pastoral needs.

#### Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie  
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352