

NINE

THE ULTIMATE JUDGE

**Read James 5:1–11;
other references as given.**

In the previous lesson James warned his readers about foolishly assuming that God endorsed their presumptuous plans. He reminded them that their lives were only a vapor that vanishes away and they should seek God's will in all their decisions.

In James 5:1–11 the writer addresses two groups of people—wealthy landowners who were taking advantage of their workers, and their workers. James warned the landowners, who were cheating their workers out of their wages so they could live more luxuriously, that God was the workers' advocate. James' direct warning to the rich oppressors (James 5:1–6) provides an indirect encouragement to believers who often find themselves the victims of social domination. James also reminds the workers that God sees the injustice and will make things right.

Before you begin, please ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and to transform you into the image of His Son. May God bless your diligent study of His Word.

1. In the last chapter James had some strong words of rebuke for those who had allowed the pursuit of riches to detour them from a spiritual priority (James 4:13–17).
 - a. Give three characteristics of the group James addresses (James 5:1–6).



Many groups study the Final Exam the week after the final lesson for three reasons: (1) someone might come to Christ, (2) believers gain assurance of salvation, (3) group members learn how to share the gospel.

ADD GROUP
INSIGHTS BELOW

James: Faith That Works

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

1. _____ (v. _____)
2. _____ (v. _____)
3. _____ (v. _____)

- b. Look carefully at the preceding passage (James 4:13–17) and James 5:1–6. Do you think James continues to address the same group (the wealthy merchants of James 4:13–17) or an entirely different group? Why?

2. The Scriptures do not condemn the possession of material wealth. Several great men of faith possessed great material wealth, but they did not allow their physical possessions to negatively influence their relationship with God (Abraham, Joseph, Job).

- a. If God does not condemn material wealth, what does this passage and other portions of God's Word condemn (James 5:1–6; 1 Timothy 6:10)?

- b. What do you think are some indications that a Christian doesn't have a biblical attitude toward material things?

3. These wealthy landowners had gained a substantial profit from their business dealings. In doing so, they had committed four sins or social crimes. What are they (James 5:2–6)?

The Ultimate Judge

1. _____ (v. _____)
2. _____ (v. _____)
3. _____ (v. _____)
4. _____ (v. _____)



*Having trouble
with your group?
A Lamplighters
trainer can help
you solve the
problem.*

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

4. In biblical times wealth consisted of money and such commodities as grain, corn, oil, and garments. These rich landowners had accumulated an abundance of these material possessions. In the process, however, the landowners had failed to realize that they were accumulating some negative things as well.

- a. If individuals gain financial wealth by ungodly means, what are they accumulating or storing up in addition to their material possessions (James 5:1–4)?

- b. Perhaps these Jews believed God was endorsing their lives because they were experiencing financial advancement. Although the Old Covenant had been replaced by the New Covenant (Luke 22:19–20), it would be natural for them to believe their financial increase was an evidence of God's endorsement (Deuteronomy 28:1–14). Has there been a time in your life (past or present) when you knew you were violating God's Word in a particular area of your life but seemed to be receiving God's blessing?

5. In what way(s) do you think their rust (corrosion) was going to be a witness against them (James 5:3)?

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

6. Christians are tempted either to place too much attention on the financial affairs of life or ignore the responsibilities of biblical financial stewardship. If we place too much attention on financial affairs, we waste precious time that could be used for God's work. If we ignore our financial stewardship responsibilities, we waste the resources God could use for His work. From the following verses, list several important financial principles every Christian should incorporate in order to honor God in this area (Psalm 24:1; Proverbs 14:23; 21:20; 27:23; Malachi 3:10-12).

7. The phrase **Lord of Sabaoth** (James 5:4) is an important Hebrew expression which means "Lord of Hosts" or "Lord of Armies." Originally it meant the Lord God would lead His people in victory against their foes. Later in the Old Testament it meant that God was the leader of the angelic host or armies. With this in mind, what does this particular use of this phrase teach (James 5:4)?

8. James gives three examples of patience to encourage believers to be triumphant in trial until the coming of the Lord (James 5:7).

a. Who are the three examples of patience (James 5:7-11)?

1. _____
_____ (v. _____)
2. _____
_____ (v. _____)
3. _____
_____ (v. _____)

b. James commands the believers to do four things in order to be triumphant in trial. What are they (James 5:7-11)?

1. _____
_____ (v. _____)
2. _____
_____ (v. _____)
3. _____
_____ (v. _____)
4. _____
_____ (v. _____)



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your next study.
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time to get the
books so you can
distribute them at
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ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS