

# GOD RULES OVER EVERYTHING

## Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website [www.vcfj.org](http://www.vcfj.org) and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

## Overview

“They say it is better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable.” (Readers Digest 9/82)  
How does this quote fit with the opening of Pastors message?

## God gives his people POWER TO GET WEALTH

### *James 5: 1-4*

- Who is spoken to beginning in **5:1** and what are they told to do?
- What problem do possessions have according to **verses 2-3**?
- What specific sin of rich people is described in **verse 4**?
- Who gave the rich the power to be wealthy?
- What did their power/wealth ultimately do to them?
- What is the misery James is warning the rich people about?
- What does it mean to be greedy?
- What can we learn from **Deut 8:18**?
- What does this tell the rich who had the power?
- What will happen to the rich on judgement day who have self-indulged?
- On Resurrection Sunday Pastor spoke of short term perspective and everlasting life. How does this apply to the way the rich behaved in these verses?

## God gives His people THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HOW TO ACQUIRE THEIR WEALTH

### *James 5:4*

- How did the people in *verse 4* acquire their wealth?
- Who is hearing the “cries of the harvesters?”
- What are the following verses telling us? *Prov 10:22, Prov 13:11, Ecc 5:10 and 1 Tim 6:9*
- What does it mean to use wealth in an ungodly manner?
- The focus here is on hoarding. Does this apply to you?

## God gives His people THE FREEDOM WHERE TO PUT TREASURES

### *James 5:5-6*

- Explain the illustration used in verse 5. What sin common to rich people is described in verse 6?
- Read *Matt 6:19* What do we learn about what we are to do with our treasures?
- As God rules over everything, what does He think of the term used in *verses 5*, “you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.?”

## Application

- List the vices and attitudes for which James is critical of the rich. Does James indicate that wealth itself is evil?
- What kinds of luxuries would 1<sup>st</sup> century rich people have enjoyed?
- What were the dangers of their luxuries? How does this apply to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- What are the dangers of luxuries? How do we know when we are guilty of living in luxury?
- Is it wrong to be wealthy? Why or Why not?
- How can we use the resources we have, such as they are, to help the poor?
- How can we know when we cross the line from prudent saving for the future verses ungodly hoarding?
- Are you aware of any situations in which innocent people have been hurt for the sake of a profit?
- What have we learned from Pastor’s message and *James 5:1-6* about this and judgement day?
- Is it wrong for Christians to own nice things or to buy non-necessary items in the face of so many needs in the world?
- Our responsibility is to be faithful to God in the realm of financial stewardship. What is this telling you?
- How does *James 5:1-6* apply to you and what can you do about it?
- What is meant by the following statement? To be rich without God gives temporary comfort and ease but long term misery?