



JAMES: When Wealth Is Sin

Pastor John Tiernan

December 4, 2016

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Pastor John said that the sermon's big idea was: God is our true treasure – not money. Read together **James 5:1-6** to see how Jesus' brother James challenges the fundamental lie that people believe: Money is our true treasure.
3. How can James' harsh warning to the rich also be a comfort to the poor?
4. Discuss the things that happen when money holds the position of ultimate worth in our life:
 - a. When money is our treasure, it will lead to FALSE HOPE.
 - b. When money is our treasure, it will lead to HURTING OTHERS to gain wealth.
 - c. When money is our treasure, it will lead to JUDGMENT.
5. Read Jesus' parable about the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31**. Jesus says that hell is real, a place of torment and anguish. Jesus says also that heaven is real, a place of comfort and peace. What does this passage tell us about heaven or hell as our eternal destiny?
6. When you imagined sitting at Jesus' feet as he taught about wealth, in what way did he speak directly to you?
7. Pastor John said that the gospel is good news to *both* the rich *and* the poor, because it promises true riches: an eternal relationship with God through Jesus. Discuss the great things that happen when we make God our treasure instead of money:
 - a. When God is our treasure, it will lead to SECURITY instead of false hope.
 - b. When God is our treasure, it will lead to LOVING PEOPLE IN NEED with our wealth.
 - c. When God is our treasure, it will lead to ETERNAL REWARDS instead of judgment.
8. Having heard this sermon, share which of the following temptations might be a struggle for you:
 - being judgmental of others about their spending of money,
 - making drastic decisions about money without consulting your spouse,
 - making excuses for yourself and doing nothing different, or
 - letting Satan heap condemnation on you for how you spend money.

Application: Consider the two ways the sermon challenged us to live out making God our treasure:

- (1) Take a look at your "luxury limit." Ask God how much he wants you to spend on "luxury" and how much he wants you to give to the needs of others.
- (2) Give up one "luxury" item and use that money to love someone in need. Ask God to make you generous, open-handed with all that he has given you.

Verse to Remember: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40