





1 At what level of wealth would one be considered “rich” and therefore need to listen to James’ exhortations? Are you rich?

 Spend a moment right now contemplating the amount of money that comes into your hands each month and write down what percentage of it is spent on necessities and what percentage of it is spent on kingdom advancement (i.e. things that the Bible says are heavenly-minded ways to spend our money). Add these two percentages together and subtract it from 100%. The percent left is the amount that you spend on things that are not necessities or are not gifts for advancing God’s kingdom. Most Americans are rich by worldly standards.

 How can we know when we’re guilty of living in luxury?


2 How can we know when we cross the line from prudent savings for the future versus ungodly hoarding?


 In what ways are you guilty of hoarding your wealth?

 Think about this by asking yourself questions like:
Do I have so much food that it spoils before I can eat it?
Do I have more clothes than I could possibly wear?
Do I have financial resources not being used for kingdom work?
Do I spend more at coffee shops or restaurants than in giving back to God?

3 Is it wrong for a Christian to own nice things or to buy non-necessary items in the face of so many needs in the world?

 Is God against wealth? Is He against rich people (see Gen. 24:35; 26:12; Deut. 8:18; Prov. 10:22)?

 Since your wealth is a blessing from God, how will you adjust your use of and attitude towards your wealth so you are not overcome by the love of stuff?

 For someone who is “rich,” what kind of actions in life show that their love is for the Giver rather than His gifts?

4 **Read Luke 12:13-21.** What is Jesus illustrating through this parable (v. 15)? _____What was the primary sin of the rich man?
_____ In what way was his thinking in (v. 19) in error? _____What is Jesus' warning to him? _____

♥ *How should you be more “on guard against all covetousness” in your life? In what ways are you tempted to covet that with which God has not blessed you?*

♥ *Does your life consist in the abundance of your possessions?*

5 **Read Matthew 6:19-21.** To what does “treasures on earth” refer? _____How does one store them (since Jesus commands us not to store up treasures on earth, we should probably have a good idea of what they are and how they are stored up)?

🗉 *What about “treasures in heaven;” what are they and how are they stored up?*

✏ *What percentage of your use of wealth falls into each category?*

6 **What things in our life could we not do without?** Write them down in the space below.

📖 *Now read 1 Tim. 6:6-10. Tie them to what you have learned from James 5:1-6.*

🗉 *What does it mean to be content with what God has provided (the basic necessities of food and clothing)?*

♥ *What are some of the dangers and perils awaiting those who desire to be rich?*

7 **In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul addresses how we are to be generous, why we are to be generous, what that generosity will bring, how it will be rewarded by our generous God, and the effects it will bring about.** In connection with that passage, spend time thanking God for His provision of grace and all sufficiency (v. 8), for Him being the supplier of all your wealth and providing you with an increase in righteousness (v. 10), for the enrichment He will provide for you to continue in generosity in every way (v. 11), the glory He will receive for your submission to the Gospel as you live this generous life (v. 13), and most of all, for His inexpressible gift of Jesus Christ who makes this generosity possible (v. 15)!

8 **Take time to pray Proverbs 30:8-9 this week and see how it changes your view of your wealth, and other's wealth.**

PRAYER REQUESTS
