

Warning to the Rich, to be Rich in Character – James 5

Mel Dahlgren – South Bay Christian Church – August 1, 2020 (Video Teleconference)

V 1 - Same warning to rich to Laodicea, end time church?? See Revelation 3:17 “say you are rich, I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” - spiritually.

Matthew 19:23-Easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Totally impossible. But V. 26 gives the only hope, “with God, all things are possible.” = GRACE through faith and humility.

Jesus - “Can’t serve God and Money” - Matthew 6:24

V. 2 - Wealth rotted-rotten greed vs. love neighbor as self. Moths eaten clothes- Revelation 19:8 - clothes=righteousness

V. 3-4- Gold and silver=character. 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 Gold (pure: does not tarnish) = 20X value of silver. Pure silver like a mirror (Bible).

This is talking about focusing so much on money and making money that your character which is like gold and silver becomes corroded. And your righteousness which is described as clothing is full of moth holes.

V 5-6 - Lived in luxury and self indulgence in critical last days. Jeremiah 25:33 - slain covering the whole earth.

V. 7-12 - Character trumps money every time. Patience, not grumbling and condemning others, and Job’s example of how God blesses us beyond comprehension after we endure trials and keep our eyes fixed on him. Trials are worth their weight in gold.

V. 13-20 - The lifestyle of prayer, being anointed, and confessing our sins while praying one for another is the vision God has for every Christian. Prayer is our intimate relationship with our greatest Friend in the whole universe. And prayer for wanderers and follow up to bring them back on track is one of the most powerful gifts you can give to a struggling brother or sister in Christ. Truly the love of God in action through us. This is how to be RICH from God’s perspective.