



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
James 5:1-6 | November 9, 2025
Prepared by DJ Severin
DJ@gspc.org | 562.493.2553 x115

I. Introduction to this Study

In this week's passage, James issues one of his strongest warnings yet, not to condemn wealth itself, but to expose the danger of hoarding, greed, and exploitation. The riches people trusted for security are corroding before their eyes, and their misuse of power has brought harm to others. Throughout his letter, James has lifted up God's concern for the poor and cautioned against favoritism and self-sufficiency. Now he concludes that unchecked luxury and injustice will not go unnoticed by the Lord of Hosts. This passage echoes the cries of the prophets, especially Amos, who declared that God hears the cries of the oppressed. In every generation, God's people are called to steward resources with justice and compassion, remembering that wealth without mercy leads to spiritual ruin.

II. Connecting with One Another

What's a small luxury or guilty pleasure you enjoy (the thing you'd rather not give up if you didn't have to)?

III. Study the Text

Read James 5:1–3

- *What images of decay stand out to you in these verses, and why do you think James uses such vivid language?*
- *How does this connect to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:19–21 about storing up treasure in heaven?*
- *What might "hoarding wealth in the last days" look like in our world today?*

Read James 5:4

- *What injustice is James confronting here, and what does it reveal about God's heart for the poor?*



- *How do Scriptures like Deuteronomy 24:14–15 and Amos 5:11–12 reinforce this warning?*
- *What modern examples of economic injustice come to mind?*
- *What's the difference between asking for charity and crying out for justice?*

Read James 5:5–6

- *What picture does the “fatted calf” evoke, and what point is James making?*
- *How can indulgence or comfort dull our awareness of others’ needs?*
- *What would it look like to use our resources for justice, mercy, and kingdom good instead?*

Reflect and Respond

- *What practices could help you keep wealth from owning your heart—generosity, simplicity, advocacy, or awareness?*
- *How might you hear the “cries of the harvesters” in your own context—those whose labor or suffering is overlooked?*
- *How can our church community model economic fairness and compassion in practical ways?*

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- *Thank God for every good gift and for the privilege of stewardship.*
- *Confess ways you’ve placed trust in wealth or comfort rather than God.*
- *Ask the Spirit to open your ears to the cries of those who suffer injustice.*
- *Pray for courage to live generously and to confront unfair systems with humility and hope.*

VI. Digging Deeper

- *Amos 8:4-7 — God hears the cries of those exploited for profit.*
- *Proverbs 11:28 — Those who trust in riches will fall.*
- *Luke 16:19-31 — The Rich Man and Lazarus.*
- *1 Timothy 6:17-19 — Command those who are rich to do good and be generous.*
- *Matthew 25:31-46 — How we treat “the least of these” reveals our hearts.*

