

The Book Of James
#10 Weep and Howl!

Memory Verse - Hand Out Scriptures to read

Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

James 5:1-6, Ps. 73:3-19, 1 Sam. 25:2-11, Lev. 19:13, Luke 16:19-31, Matt. 5:39.

This lesson is dealing with rich who abuse the power of money.

"Bernie" Madoff American convicted of fraud and a former stockbroker, investment advisor, and financier. He is the confessed operator of a Ponzi scheme that is considered to be the largest financial fraud in U.S. history. The court-appointed trustee estimated actual losses to investors of \$18 billion. On June 29, 2009, Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison in North Carolina, the maximum allowed.

Justice Will Be Done!

James 5:1 (NKJV) *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!*

The Greek word translated as “miserics” in James 5:1 comes from the same root used to describe Laodicea as “wretched” in Revelation 3:17.

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV) *Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

James 1:9–10 (NKJV) *Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.*

***Luke 17:27 (NKJV)** *They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.*

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NKJV) *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

When Wealth Becomes Worthless

James 5:2–3 (NKJV) *Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.*

Luke 12:16–21 *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

The Story of Nabal 1 Samuel 25:2–11

How much land does a man need? 6'

A short story by Leo Tolstoy about a man who, in his lust for land, forfeits everything.

Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:12 (NKJV) *At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.*

Peter (Acts 3:1-10) the Beautiful Gate

Acts 3:6 (NKJV) *Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*

Cries of the Poor

James 5:4 *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

***Proverbs 3:27–28** *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, When it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; When thou hast it by thee.*

Leviticus 19:13 (NKJV) *You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.*

James 5:5 (NKJV) *You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.*

***Jeremiah 22:13** *Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, And his chambers by wrong; That useth his neighbour's service without wages, And giveth him not for his work;*

Ezekiel 16:49 (ESV) *Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.*

Gehazi

2 Kings 5:20 *But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.*

***Jude 11** *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

Judas

Genesis 14:22–23 *And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:*

Fat and Happy (for Now)

James 5:5 (NKJV) *You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.*

Amos 4:1 (NKJV) *Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!"*

Blame the Victim

James 5:6 (NKJV) *You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.*

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

***James 2:5** (NKJV) *Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

Riches bring with them great responsibilities. To obtain wealth by unjust dealing, by overreaching in trade, by oppressing the widow and the fatherless, or by hoarding up riches and neglecting the wants of the needy, will eventually bring the just retribution described by the inspired apostle: Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. -Ellen G. White, *Testimonies vol. 2*, p. 682.