



# Daily Reflections

**May 24, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **James 5: 1-6**

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

James takes to task wealthy businessmen within the community who have amassed their wealth on the backs of the less fortunate. They have used unjust means to become rich. James warns them that they have some painful times ahead if they do not change. Please note, James, like the Lord Jesus,

never condemns wealth or wealthy people...it's the attitude of one's heart towards wealth and possessions that is judged.

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## **Food for your Journey**

"There was a legend that a rich merchant scoured the Mediterranean world looking for the distinguished apostle Paul. He encountered Timothy, who arranged a visit with Paul, who was a prisoner in Rome.

"Entering the jail cell, the merchant found a rather old man, physically broken down. The merchant was amazed at Paul's personal peace and serenity . . . they talked for hours. The merchant left with Paul's blessing and prayer ... Outside, the merchant inquired, 'What is the key to Paul's power? I have never seen anyone like him in my entire life.'

"'Haven't you figured it out?' asked Timothy. 'Paul is in love ... Paul is in love with Jesus Christ.'

"The man looked even more confused. 'Is that all?'

"With a smile on his face, the young preacher answered, 'Ah, but that is everything.'"

--O. S. Hawkins,

Revive Us Again

(Nashville Broadman Press, 1990),107.

Christ said it was difficult for "the rich" to enter the kingdom of Heaven, referring, no doubt, to "riches" in the ordinary sense. But I think it really covers riches in every sense - good fortune, health, popularity and all the things one wants to have. All these things tend - just as money tends - to make you feel independent of God, because if you have them you are happy already and contented in this life. You don't want to turn away to anything more, and so you try to rest in a shadowy happiness as if it could last forever.

But God wants to give you a real and eternal happiness. Consequently, he may have to take all these "riches" away from you: If he doesn't, you will go on relying on them.

-C.S. Lewis, "Answers to Questions on Christianity," C.S. Lewis: Readings for Meditation and Reflection (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992), 103.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Thank You, Lord, for the times You came through for us when we didn't even know we needed a rescue. Thank You, Lord, for the losses we have experienced. They have been a reminder that You are our greatest gain. Thank You, God, for the tears we have shed. They have kept our hearts soft and moldable. Thank You, God, for the times we haven't been able to control our circumstances. They have reminded us that You are sovereign and on the throne. Thank You, God, for Your ability to take what we consider 'tragedy' and turn it into a treasure. Thank You, God, for the greatest gift You could ever give us: forgiveness through Your perfect Son's death on the cross on our behalf. Amen