

Developing a Faith that Works Viewer Guide Session 11: How to Be Wise with Your Wealth

“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.” James 5:1-6 NIV

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the key point of James 5:2-3? Also, what is the difference between saving and hoarding (verse 3)?

2. Take turns reading the following verses aloud:

Leviticus 19:13

Deuteronomy 25:15-16

Jeremiah 22:13

Amos 8:4-7

James 5:4

What do these verse teach us about God’s view of ethics in business? Do you feel pressure to participate in unethical business practices? If so, what do you do to stand strong against the pressures?

3. Why does James compare a luxurious and self-indulgent lifestyle to being “fattened... *in the day of slaughter*” (verse 5)?

4. Read the following verses aloud. What does each say about the benefits of a strong work ethic?

Proverbs 12:27

Proverbs 14:23

Ephesians 6:5-8

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

5. When does a strong work ethic cross the line into “workaholism”?