

## **Session #8: James 5:1-6**

### **Small Group Questions**

1. How seriously do we take Jesus' (James') warnings? Do we think they are for us, or for other people? Why?
2. In what ways does God's view of wealth differ from the American dream? How has the culture impacted your own view of wealth?
3. Can you think of ways you look for security from money and things? How does Matthew 6 (esp. v. 11 and 19-34) help to cure us of our idolatry?
4. Verse three says, "You have hoarded wealth in the last days." The phrase "last days" reminds us that we living with the hope that Jesus will soon return. Does your view of the end times sharpen or make dull your social conscience? Does your expectation of judgment day compel you to serve the needy, or compel you to say, "why bother polishing the brass while the ship is going down?" Which response is more biblical?
5. Talk about the following quote: "Never acquire for yourself anything that you might hesitate to give to your brother if he asked you for it."
6. Does anyone depend on you for their livelihood (directly or indirectly)? How are you treating them? Is anyone crying out to God for mercy because of you?
7. What responsibility do we, as rich Christians, have in a world of hunger?
8. If luxury and self-indulgence makes us blind—how then can we lift our eyes from material things?
9. What are some specific ways we can use our power and wealth to help those in critical need?
10. What do you think of Pastor Bill's dad's advice to "earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can"? What would it look like to *give all you can*? Do you give sacrificially (until it hurts), or do you skim off the top of your own wealth and excess?
11. How did Jesus absorb the blows of financial violence? How does His life as well as His sacrifice on the cross speak to the way you handle your own wealth?

### **Pray for One Another**