

"Come now, you rich people, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you. Your wealth has rotted and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up JAMES treasure in the last days."

"Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who mowed your fields cries out, and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Armies. You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts in a day JAMES of slaughter."

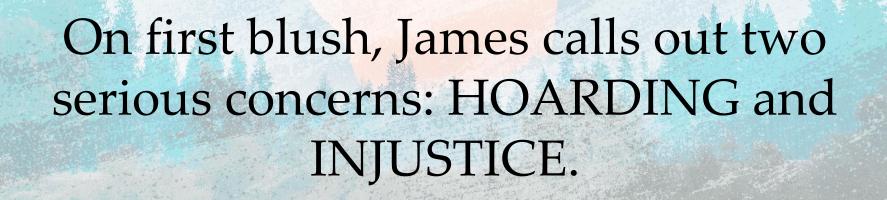
"You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous, who does not resist you." (James 5:1-6)



"Let anyone who has ears to hear, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

(Revelation 3:16)





"Your wealth has rotted and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in the last days." (James 5:2-3) JAMES

## The false sense of security that hoarding promises is insidious.

"Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." (Leviticus 27:30)

"Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest."

(Proverbs 3:9)



"And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of worldly wealth so that when it fails, they may welcome you into eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9)

Hoarding is not only motivated by fear. Sometimes it is pure greed and self-centered indulgence.

"You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."

(James 5:5)

## Our transformative spiritual response: PURGING, SIMPLICITY, & SHARING



"Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire."

(James 5:3)

"You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."

(James 5:5)



"Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who mowed your fields cries out, and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Armies." (James 5:4)

"Do not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether one of your Israelite brothers or one of the resident aliens in a town in your land. You are to pay him his wages each day before the sun sets, because he is poor and depends on them. Otherwise he will cry out to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty." (Deuteronomy 24:14-15) JAMES

"You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous, who does not resist you."

(James 5:6)



"A nobleman traveled to a far country to receive for himself authority to be king and then to return. He called ten of his servants, gave them ten minas, and told them, 'Engage in business until I come back." (Luke 19:12-13) JAMES

"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We don't want this man to rule over us.'"

(Luke 19:14)

"He told him, 'I will condemn you by what you have said, you evil servant! If you knew I was a harsh man, collecting what I didn't deposit and reaping what I didn't sow, why, then, didn't you put my money in the bank? And when I returned, I would have collected it with interest." JAMES

(Luke 19:20-21)

"Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.' 'I tell you, that to everyone who has, more will be given; and from the one who does not have, even what he does have will be taken away. But bring here these enemies of mine, who did not want me to rule over them, and slaughter them in my presence."" JAMES

(Luke 19:24-27)

Sometimes the most <u>faithful</u> response is to refuse to participate in a corrupt system, play by its rules, or exploit its loopholes.

Such a stand will be costly for those who make it. It will result in real loss, scorn, and disadvantage. But we answer to a different King, who will one day call all injustice to account. JAMES

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."

(Matthew 6:33)