

## **James 4:13-5:6 A loving Rebuke**

The phrase "come now" is an ancient semitic form of a serious rebuke. James as pastor is lovingly seeking to wake his community up to the worldly patterns that are utterly destructive to them and their world.

### **Read James 4:13-18**

1. James here is addressing our planning for the future. I have this place in mind, this timeline I am working within, this goal I am aiming toward. From the passage what reasons does James give for calling this kind of planning boastful and arrogant?
2. What are the dangers to us and to our world that are inherent in planning believing we are in control?
3. How does James invite us to plan for the future and how might this be accomplished?

### **Read James 5:1-5**

James is seeking to wake his community up to the destructive pattern that is present in a love of money. The bible is not against wealth but the love of it is destructive and James here summarizes the teaching of the bible.

4. If we place our sense of value, worth, joy, self in things that fade, corrode, rot what will be the impact on us?
5. The love of money will turn our hearts away from the cries of the poor. What are the economic injustices of our day that we in the west benefit from and how do we in our consumption patterns contribute to them?
6. The love of money will either lead us to keep more for ourselves than we need or to live a life of luxury or self indulgence. The bible commends saving but condemns hoarding, it celebrates enjoying the bounty of the earth but crushes self indulgence so where is balance to be found? In the sermon Tim referenced the preacher who posed the question – is my standard of living going up as fast as my income? – for the follower of Jesus the answer should always be no. The more we have the greater the distance should be between how I could live and how I do live. The invitation is to live beneath my means so that I can give. Discuss together how balance can be achieved.

**Read James 5:6**

7. James wants our last thoughts to be of Jesus (the one who willingly let himself be condemned and murdered for our sake). How can our relationship with our money be transformed when we see that Jesus laid down everything for us on the cross?