


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Warning to Rich Oppressors

Q1. Is there a difference between people who have a lot of money and those who love money?

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Q2. (Personal question) Answer this question truthfully. Do you love money? Or what it can buy? Or the power it represents? Or something else (name it)???

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Q3. What is an idol?

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Exodus 20:3-6

“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

Q4. Why would James be warning “rich people” about the “misery that is coming upon you”?

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² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ^{3a} Your gold and silver are corroded.


Q5. As you read verses 2-3a, what is James warning against?

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1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Day 2

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^{3b} Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

Q6. Is “hoarding wealth” really a bad characteristic for a person to have?

Matthew 6:19-21, &24

[Jesus taught,] "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Q7. We remember what James taught in verse 2:6 "... so faith without deeds is dead". As you read Matthew 6:20, how would you explain Jesus’ words “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven”?

 Please read the parable Jesus told as recorded in Matthew 25:14-30. It helps to illustrate the principle that obedience to God is rewarded and that we are to store up “treasures in Heaven”. Talents can represent dollar bills, but talents can also represent the deeds that we perform out of obedience to our Lord Jesus.


Q8. Reading James 5:3b, what does a corroded piece of precious metal represent?

Q9. Reading James 5:3b, how would a corroded piece of precious metal “eat your flesh like a fire”?

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I [John] saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Day 3

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⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

Q10. If a person fails to pay wages, what does that say about the person?

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Deuteronomy 24:14-15

Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. ¹⁵ Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise, he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Q11. Is ‘wage theft’ still a problem today?

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Q12. What does the sentence “The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty” mean?

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Q13. Does the Lord answer prayers?

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⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

⁶ You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

Q14. Are we to seek revenge against an unjust employer?

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Q15. We are fortunate in this country at this time to have the freedom to switch jobs and employers. Has this always been the case? Can you think of examples when this freedom did not exist?

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1 Peter 2:13-21

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it

to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.


Q16. If we as employees consider ourselves “slaves”, how might this 1 Peter passage change our attitude at work?

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1 Timothy 2:1-6

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone — ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.

Day 4

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Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

Q17. Why did James use the example of a farmer?

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⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Q18. As you reread verse-9, how would explain “grumble”? And why might “grumble” be “judged”?

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Q19. Who is the “Judge”?

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¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Q20. Can you name one of the prophets? And how did he suffer? How do you know he was a man of God?

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¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Q21. Can you describe "Job's perseverance"? And how did the Lord deliver him?

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¹² Above all, my brothers, do not swear — not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

Q22. This seems harsh that we will be condemned. Society allows "little white lies" and society seems to preach that a little lie is okay to protect a person's feelings. And sometimes we say "yes" to avoid looking bad or to avoid a confrontation. As Believers in Jesus, how are we to act?

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Q23. Did Jesus have anything to say on this subject?

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Matthew 5:36-37

And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

Q24. Is singing "songs of praise" a prayer?

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Q25. When are we to pray?

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Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Q26. Do we know of any examples of healings? Did prayer work in those circumstances?


Q27. Do we question our faith or God when God takes one of us to be with Him, despite our fervent, heartfelt prayers for healing? What do you think God wants us to do with our cries and questions?

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.


Q28. What is an accountability partner?

Q29. Why did James suggest that we confess our sins to each other and pray?

¹⁷Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

 Note: God answers our prayers. We should memorize this verse: “The prayer of a righteous man [or woman] is powerful and effective.” [James 5:16^b]

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Q30. Our society makes much of tolerance and political correctness. It has become almost a chant, a mantra, “judge not or you will be judged”. Are we to embrace society’s stand on “tolerance”?

Q31. Is there a difference between judgment and discernment? If yes, what is the difference?

Q32. Are we to treat our sinning pagan neighbor differently than we treat a believing brother or sister?

Q33. Some church bodies might teach that a brother's or sister's sin is between the sinner and the Lord; that we should not judge. Is this correct?

Q34. Why should we expose sin in the church body?

Galatians 5:9

"A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

Q35. What does the Galatians 5:9 mean? What does the "yeast" represent?

Q36. Can you think of any present-day examples where a little "yeast" is working through the dough?

 Thinking back over our Study of the Book of James:

Q37. What is the most meaningful Bible verse(s) for you from our study of the Book James?

Q38. What is your most important take-away (i.e., application) from our study of the Book James?

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