

# “The Downside Of Wealth”

**James 5:1-6**

*Discussion Questions*

**Note:** *To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.*

1. Let's pretend: What would you do with a huge windfall i.e. lottery win, inheritance, sleeper stocks etc?

\* How much money would that be...thousands? millions? billions?

2. Someone read **James 5:1-3** & someone else read **Luke 12:16-20**.

\* Is there *any* connection *at all* between money and happiness or quality of life?

\* How would you balance these passages with the wisdom of having savings, making investments and buying insurance?

\* What are some of the dangers which James associates with great wealth?

3. Someone read **James 3-6**.

\* Think of someone who is substantially wealthier than you are and someone who has substantially less than you do.

\* Which of the 4 temptations suggested by James refers is most prevalent among those who are wealthier?

1) To *Hoard* rather than *Help* Read **Matthew 6:19-21**.

> Is there anything you own which is so protected that it is totally off-limits to others?

2) To *Cheat* rather than *Compensate* Read **1 Timothy 5:18**.

> How does this relate to paying babysitters, tipping servers, supporting Christian workers, churches and ministries etc?

3) To *Squander* rather than *Share* Read **1 Timothy 6:17-19**.

> What guidelines does Paul give in these verses for handling wealth?

3) To *Oppress* rather than *Provide* Read **2 Corinthians 8:9**.

> How did Jesus model the handling of wealth & poverty?