

JAMES

WEEK 5

Scott Lanigan (November 27-28, 2021)

JAMES 5

James invites us to find life that is truly life. That is how to be rich in a way that honors God.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. In your life, what makes you feel rich?
2. What does your responsibility look like when God is involved in everyday details and He blesses you?
3. What is one step you can take this week to “start the process” of the eternal promise of Jesus instead of the temporary of the world?

LOOK TO THE WORD

Read James 5.

- What stood out? (e.g. themes, verses, recurring thoughts, images)
- What questions stand out?
- What is one key verse?

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. James 5:1-2

- What are rich people weeping and wailing about with James?
- Why does wealth rot?
- What is James concerned with the rich believers in his Church?
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You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. James 5:8-9

- Why is James calling believers to "be patient and stand firm"?
- Why does James think the Lord's coming is near?
- What is the connection between grumbling and judgment?

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. Eccl 5:19

- Why do you believe God gives wealth and possessions?
- What does it look like to enjoy wealth and possessions in light of them being God's gift?

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

- What stands out to you in James 1:27 after reading James 5?
- What is God's purpose for religion?
- How does the world pollute someone and what are ways God provides to keep you unpolluted?

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

- What is the role of confession for a follower of Jesus?
- What is the purpose of prayer according to James?
- Why does James think the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective?

LOOK INWARD

"Rich" has to do with not what you have, but how you think about what you have.

- Scott mentioned two areas we navigate when it comes to "rich": financial margin & global scale.
 - What does it mean for you to have financial margin?
 - How can seeing the rich in the world affect how you understand your own wealth? (e.g. social media comparison, new headlines, the stock ticker)

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Scott said, "You aren't a self-made success. God created you and God gave it to you. You have gifts, talents, opportunities... [it] is a gift from God."

- What gifts, talents, opportunities do you have?
 - To discover more about yourself, visit trinitychurchkelowna.ca/resources and select "Knowing God by Knowing You"
- What are ways you are tempted to declare yourself a "self-made success"?
- What does it look like to "start the process" with the gifts, talents and opportunities you have been given?

Scott said, "By day three, it will dawn on you, these people have something I don't have. They have time for relationships & intimacy with God. They don't have stress, anxiety or the burden of managing so much stuff."

- When we think about missions trips to impoverished areas of our world, why do they often have greater relationships and intimacy with God? Or anxiety or burdens?
- What can we learn from those who have "less stuff" than we do?
- We often compare "upward" but what would it look like for you to compare yourself "downward"? How would that affect the way you see your riches?

Scott said, "We don't need more of what is temporary. We need more of what is eternal. We don't need more money, we need more Jesus."

- What we do with our stuff says a lot about our lives. What is the connection between what we do and the eternal?
- Why is eternity important?

LOOK OUTWARD

James is saying those who are rich have the blessing of enjoying what God has given them while also having a greater responsibility.

- In God's eyes, what is your responsibility to your neighbour?
- How are you uniquely gifted or talented to love your neighbour?

Start the process and come to God in prayer.

- How will your process impact others around you?

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SO WHAT?

Stop the performance, start the process & come to God in prayer.

BREATH PRAYER

God, help me use my riches with the eternal in mind.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Generosity

When our giving is rooted in Scripture and responsive to God, we draw closer to His purpose for our life: bearing the image of Christ.

Choose one opportunity you have this week to be generous. (e.g. buy the person behind you a coffee, prepare a tray of goodies for your neighbour, make a donation to a charitable organization)

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the way He invites us into an eternal process
- Praise God for His involvement in all the details of our lives
- Praise God for the Advent season as we start with the week of Hope
- Pray that God will intervene and preserve communities and homes in BC's flooding
- Pray for the continued renewal and renovation of the Trinity's campus
- Pray for those who will join us on campus for our Christmas Eve services
- Pray that God would inspire generosity in our community this year

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Signup for our daily Advent devotionals at Trinity this year

<https://trinitychurchkelowna.ca/resources>