

Faith that Works
May 20, 2007

“Avoiding Misery”
James 5:1-6

Introduction:

Did you know that sixteen of the thirty-eight parables that Jesus told concerned money and how best to handle our possessions? Did you know that the Bible offers more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions?

Interpretation:

Application:

Going Deeper

1. Read the parable of the *Rich Man and Lazarus* (Luke 16:19-31) and share with one another how the story makes you feel, as well as how you believe God would have you respond to its message.
2. After reading the following passages of Scripture, how would you describe your desire to meet the needs of the poor, in comparison to God's passion for the care of the poor? (Isaiah 56:6-10, Ezekiel 16:48-50, Amos 2:6-8, Matthew 25:31-46)
 - Eager to give and sacrificial
 - Willing to give and growing in generosity
 - Grudgingly giving and convicted
 - Hoarding wealth and uncaring
3. In what area does Paul encourage us to "excel?" What steps would you need to take in order to become excellent? (2 Corinthians 8:7-9)
4. How have you experienced the rotting and corrosion of possessions that James describes? How has it impacted your desire for more possessions? (Matthew 6:19-21)
5. Look up the words below in a Bible concordance to learn what the New Testament says on these topics. Write verses that are particularly meaningful for you beside the words below and spend time meditating on them.
 - Rich
 - Money
 - Poor
 - Give

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