

COMING MISERY

James 5:1, Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

1. Don't define your life by _____

(Journal) James 5:2-3

A. That which is _____ doesn't stay _____

"Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. —Luke 12:33 (NLT)

B. The physical _____ will often mirror the decay of your spiritual and moral life.

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. —Luke 12:34 (NLT)

A SPIRITUAL CONTRAST (2 Timothy 6:17-19)

Be HUMBLE about what you have... Recognize God as GENEROUS to you... Use things to do GOOD and to show generosity... ALWAYS be ready to share

2. Don't demonstrate your greed by _____

(Journal) James 5:4

A. Profiting from unfair _____

Never take advantage of poor and destitute laborers, whether they are fellow Israelites or foreigners living in your towns. You must pay them their wages each day before sunset because they are poor and are counting on it. If you don't, they might cry out to the Lord against you, and it would be counted against you as sin. —Deuteronomy 24:15-15 (NLT)

'We have fasted before you!' they say. 'Why aren't you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don't even notice it!' "I will tell you why!" I respond. "It's because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. —Isaiah 58:3 (NLT)

B. Capitalizing on unjust _____

If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you! —Proverbs 19:17

A SPIRITUAL CONTRAST (Zechariah 7:9-10)

Judge and treat others FAIRLY... Show COMPASSION for those in need... Choose to ENCOURAGE others through your actions... ALWAYS be ready to be generous without an agenda

3. Don't designate your success by _____

(Journal) James 5:5-6

A. Self-indulgent luxury is waste and waste is _____

A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, "I want my share of your estate now before you die." So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. —Luke 15:11-13 (NLT)

"There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. —Luke 16:20-21

B. Self-indulgent luxury has a way of ruining _____

Before I confessed my sins, my bones felt limp, and I groaned all day long. Night and day your hand weighed heavily on me, and my strength was gone as in the summer heat. So I confessed my sins and told them all to you. I said, "I'll tell the Lord each one of my sins." Then you forgave me and took away my guilt. —Psalm 32:3-5 (CEV)

A SPIRITUAL CONTRAST (Acts 2:42-47)

ADMIT your sinful choices... Be DEVOTED to the things of God... Be UNSELFISH with what you have... Be SACRIFICIAL to those who need help... BUILD a legacy of joy and generosity