WHAT DO YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE?

After the rich young ruler walked away from Him, Jesus shared with His disciples that “it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:23). Contrary to how it’s sometimes portrayed, the Bible holds no criticism of riches themselves. All of the negativity about wealth focuses on one’s relation to riches; in the case of the rich young ruler, he chose his wealth over following the commands of Jesus. The focus is on the posture of the heart.

Like all gifts from God, one’s usage of riches determines more than the riches do themselves. In this week’s passage, James explores how the rich often use their power to defraud, condemn, and even murder. This is the condemnation—how power and influence gained by wealth is wielded as a weapon instead of as an opportunity for love.

James spares no words as he rebukes the rich in his audience. Continuing his focus on actions, he details specific ways the rich have failed to live up to the standard of love. Though they may not be conscious of consequences now, James assures them that the day is coming, and what they have so trusted in will be witnesses against them in the end.
Write out James 5:1–6 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out James 5:1–3. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

- **Circle** repeated words/ideas
- **Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you
- **Draw Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in James 5:1–6. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How would you describe your current financial status? Do you struggle with more of a scarcity mindset or not holding on to what you have very long?

How have you seen finances reveal the character of someone else?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you see society allowing the rich to do things the non-rich cannot? How have you been affected by this, either personally or in your worldview?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam10-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Proverbs 11:28  
Job 31:24–28  
Jeremiah 48:7  
Psalm 52:7  
Psalm 62:10  
1 Timothy 6:17

What other verses come to mind in connection with James 5:1–6?

Review your memorized verse from James 5:1–6.
Meditate on James 5:1–6 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through these texts?

What’s another example of Jesus using His power for others instead of Himself?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam10-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/jam10-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why do you think it’s a common experience to lean too much on material things?

Why do you think the Bible talks about money so often?

How can you use your finances, or a part of your finances, to be a blessing in your sphere of influence this month?

Share about someone you know who blesses others with their finances. What can you learn from them?

Reflecting on the inSight quote, how can our relation to money parallel our relation to ministry?

How has the media (social or otherwise) impacted your worldview regarding money?

Describe a balanced, Christian relationship with money. What does that practically look like?