

Read James 5:1-6

Who are the 'rich' people that James is talking to in this passage?

Typically we don't consider ourselves rich, but on a global scale most of us are in the top 1% by income¹. How does that make you feel?

Read v3b-5. What does James rebuke the rich for, specifically?

What does hoarding wealth look like in our modern-day context? (v3)

How can we indirectly oppress or marginalise others through the way we use our money? (v4)

How have our hearts become 'fattened'? (v5)

Reuben talked about two ways in which we can resist the pull of our culture in regard to money and material possessions:

1. Simplicity.

"The rich must live more simply, that the poor may simply live" (Charles Birch). Discuss this quote. What does it mean?

Read Matthew 6:19-21. How can we apply this to our lives?

How can we resist the impulse to constantly upgrade and replace things, and learn to 'make do' with what we have?

What one step could you take to cultivate greater simplicity in your life?

2. Generosity.

What are some ways that we can practice everyday generosity?

What step could you take to become a more generous person?

¹ If you earn NZ\$60,000 gross, you are in the top 1.2% of income earners worldwide (source: globalrichlist.com)