



Title: Wars and Fightings (part 4) – Wisdom against Economic Corruption

Text: *James 5:1-6*

1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Pagsasalin: Halikayo ngayon, kayong mayayaman, tumangis kayo at humagulhol dahil sa mga kahirapan na sa inyo'y darating. 2 Ang inyong mga kayamanan ay bulok na, at ang inyong mga damit ay kinakain na ng bukbok. 3 Ang inyong ginto at ang inyong pilak ay kinakalawang na, at ang mga kalawang ng mga ito ay magiging patotoo laban sa inyo, at gaya ng apoy ay lalamunin nito ang inyong laman. Kayo'y nag-imbak ng mga kayamanan para sa mga huling araw. 4 Tingnan ninyo, ang sahod ng mga manggagawa na gumapas sa inyong mga bukid na inyong ipinagkakait ay umiiyak; at ang pag-iyak ng mga umani ay nakarating sa pandinig ng Panginoon ng mga hukbo. 5 Kayo'y namuhay na may pagpapasasa sa ibabaw ng lupa, at namuhay kayong may karangyaan. Pinataba ninyo ang inyong mga puso sa araw ng katayan. 6 Inyong hinatulan at pinaslang ang taong matuwid na hindi lumalaban sa inyo.

The Cure for Economic Injustice – God’s Wisdom Against the Wealthy yet Robbing Church

Members. (vv.1-6)

- A. They are to go, and weep and howl (v.1) – They are commanded to repent.
 - Because their miseries are certain.
- B. They are to understand:
 - B.1. (v.2) – Their riches are corrupt.
 - B.2. (v.2) – Their garments are moth-eaten.
 - B.3. (v.3) – Their gold and silver is cankered.
 - B.4. (v.3) – Their riches shall rust and that shall be a witness against them.
 - B.5. (v.3) – Their riches shall devour them as fire.
 - B.6. (v.3) – Their riches are heaped up treasure for the last days
- C. They are to see – to behold – (v.4) – They have stolen wages for their laborers.
 - C.1. The laborers cried unto the Lord and the Lord heard them. (The Lord of Hosts) (v.4)
- D. They have lived in the pleasures of life (v.5) – they have grown fat in the day of the slaughtering of cattle.
- E. They have condemned and killed the just (v.6).
- F. The just does not resist (v.6).

Observations:

1. Pastor James is preaching hard and direct, calling out sin and the sinning members of the Jerusalem Baptist Church and the scattered churches. This must have been a prevailing problem especially during the time of the master-slave relationship affecting the church.
2. The church had members who were sinning by corruption, covetousness, oppression, sensuality (lovers of pleasure), and even murders (or killings).
3. God hears the prayers of the poor and the oppressed.
4. There is a Divine Judgment for everyone (saved and unsaved). For the saved – The Judgment Seat of Christ and For the unsaved – The Great White Throne Judgment.