

SERMON NOTES

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FAITH DOES!

“*Filthy Rich!*”

The words “*filthy rich*” bring to mind a number of things. Some envision a Bill Gates personality; an individual with enormous wealth. Others see an ostentatiously rich person; one who flaunts his/her wealth with mansions, flashy cars, clothes and who looks down on everyone else. Still others see the way a person acquires their wealth, either dishonestly or self-centeredly. They all fit! Few acquire the title, *rich*; but, almost everyone would like to have the opportunity!

In our nation’s history, there have been a number of wealthy families. The Rockefeller’s, Ford’s, DuPont’s, Astor’s, and Vanderbilt’s are just a few. They remind us of just how much money and power a person can accumulate. But, is it a sin to be rich?

Luke tells us in Acts 4 that a man named Barnabas sold land and gave the proceeds to the apostles for the church’s use. He was a landowner, a *man of means*, but he was not *filthy rich*. Then, there was Joseph of Arimathea who buried Jesus’ body in his own *new tomb*. He, too, was not a pauper, but neither was he the slave of his possessions. Wealth can be a gift, an opportunity for serving others and glorifying Christ.

This morning, James continues to *meddle* as he reminds us that money can ruin us if we allow it to make us *filthy rich!*

James 5:1-6

James tells us that there is . . .

- I. A _____-Plague. It is the human desire to acquire wealth at all cost!

I. Wealth is _____ . (Vv 2-3a)

2. Wealth is _____ . (Vs 3b)

II. A _____-Success. Not everything that looks like success is!

1. The world measures success by . . .

(1) _____ (Vs 5)

(2) _____ (Vs 6a)

(3) _____ (Vs 6b)

2. God says that success is . . . (2 Corinthians 4:7-15)

(1) Not _____ you have but _____ has you. (Vs 7)

(2) Not what happens _____ you but what God does _____ you. (Vv 8-10)

(3) Not getting _____ but _____ others. (Vv 11-12)

(4) Not winning every _____ but winning the _____!
(Vv 13-15)

III. A _____ of _____.

1. Define _____ for your life. (Matthew 6:31-33, NLT)

2. Begin making _____ investments. (Matthew 6:20-21)

Manage the three “A’s” in your life . . .

_____ . . . *What you give your mind to.*

_____ . . . *What you give your heart to.*

_____ . . . *What you give yourself to.*