

# Becoming Mature in Christ

## *What Kind of Steward Are You?*

James 5:1-6

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### Introduction:

- Two weeks ago, in James 4 – Three Wars that rage in us or around us.
    - War with God –
    - War within ourselves –
    - War with others –
  - Last week – We have Two Choices:
    - God's Will –
    - Our Will –
  - **James 4:17**
  - Today we are talking about being a steward.
  - What is a steward?
    - A steward was one who was given charge of something that does not belong to them, it belongs to the OWNER.
  - **Matthew 25:14-30** – Parable of the three stewards.
  - How does this apply to us? Well, God has given us all stewardship of something. How are you doing with it?
  - **James 5:1-6**
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### 1. How they gained their wealth:

- a. To clear any misunderstanding of scripture – The Bible does not say it is wrong to have money.
- b. The way we use our wealth, the way we love wealth – that is where the issues come in.
- c. **Deuteronomy 24:14**
- d. **Leviticus 19:13**
- e. **Jeremiah 22:13**
- f. What is this Bob, we have never held back a person's wages.
  1. Are you sure about that?
- g. **Exodus 20:15**
- h. **Matthew 9:36-37**
- i. What about the possibility of stealing from God and His Kingdom?
- j. **Micah 3:8-12**
- k. Tithing is a faith and a trust issue.
  1. If God has richly blessed you, then you should richly give.

- m. When we gather as a body of believers and we give nothing back to God, we rob Him and His Kingdom.
- n. **James 5:4**
- o. **James 5:1-3**

## 2. The way they used their wealth:

- a. **James 5:5**
- b. The people that James was talking about here used everything they had to fulfill all their wildest dreams, their life, their concern was for nothing more than the next thing that could fulfill their desire.
- c. I want to say again so that the message does not get lost. NOWHERE, does God say in His Word that having wealth is sinful or wrong at all.
- d. **Luke 12:16-21**
- e. This man used his money in unbiblical ways:
  1. They stored up their wealth – **Exodus 16:20 ... Luke 18:22-23**
  2. They lived in in luxury – **Luke 12:15**

## 3. What do these riches do to a person?

- a. **James 5:1**
- b. James describes the consequences of misusing riches:
  1. Riches will vanquish – **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17-19 ... Luke 12:20**
  2. Misused riches also erode character – **James 5:3 ... 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10 ... Exodus 20.**
  3. Judgement is certain –
  4. The loss of a precious opportunity – **Matthew 6:21**
- c. **James 5:6**
- d. **Malachi 3:10** – *“If you trust God with the terms, then tithe.”*
- e. Do you trust God with the terms?