

FaithWorks

Week 10: Against Greed

Weekly Summary: The love of money is a dangerous and destructive force in the human heart. Greed leads to injustice, and injustice inevitably leads to God's judgment. In today's lesson, James warns us about where the love of money leads us, as we also learn about wealth's proper role in our lives.

➤ _____ isn't evil, but your _____ is.

- ❖ **James 5:1-6** – Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

➤ If money isn't _____, it will become a _____ in your heart.

- ❖ **Matthew 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 8:9** – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

❖ **1 Timothy 6:6-8** – But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

➤ Faith works _____ (“_____ with what God has given you”)

❖ **Luke 12:32-34** – “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

➤ Faith values the treasures that _____ most.

➤ Faith uses our treasures for what _____ most.

➤ **Big Idea:** Faith pursues my _____ over my _____.

Digging Deeper

1. In what ways does greed show up in your life? How are you tempted to excuse your own personal episodes of greed?
2. What earthly things do you treasure most in your life? Why?
3. How does God want us to view these things? Why?
4. Imagine waking up tomorrow to learn that all your earthly possessions were gone. How does that prospect make you feel? How would you react, based on your past relationship with money?
5. Let's take a few minutes to list some of the treasures that are “lasting.” How does recognizing those treasures affect how you view earthly treasures?
6. Many of the early Christians were very poor, yet extremely generous. What enabled them to live and act in such a way?
7. Think practically: How can you use your treasures in a way that reflects your Christian faith? How will you serve your Maker ... not your money?
8. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How do Paul's words to Timothy reinforce today's message?
9. **Challenge:** Consider some of the ways you might better use your earthly treasures for things that matter the most in God's eyes.
10. **Homework:** Read James 5:7-11 to start thinking ahead to next week's *FaithWorks* message.