

Small Group notes – 1 July 2018

Welcome – What is your favourite item of clothing or jewelry?

Word – James 5:1-12 – Money matters and moaning challenged!

To the rich - James 5:1-6

- **The accumulation of wealth** – verse 1-3
The root of greed is a lack of contentment – how we need to learn to be content with what we have. Hoarding can be a lack of security, fear and unbelief that God is good and will provide for us.
- **The appropriation of wealth** – verse 4
God is not only concerned with what we've got but also how we have acquired it. James is addressing the treatment of employees by the wealthy! What about us today? Fair Trade, Banks and investments.
- **The allocation of wealth** – verse 5
God is not just interested in what we have or how we acquired it, but also how we spend and invest. Money talks – some of the wealthy Christians in James era were challenged by him as they were hoarding – robbing and self-indulgent, instead of them saying – you (I) am content - you (I) are generous – you (I) are free.

To the struggling & suffering - James 5:7-12

- **Be patient** – verse 7-8
Patience involves trusting God. The patient Farmer waits.
- **Persevere** – verse 10-11
Both patience and perseverance are signs of godly character and display authentic faith.

James instructs as they go through struggles and sufferings they are not to respond:

- **Don't grumble** – verse 9
One effect of impatience is to look for someone to blame. We moan and complain.
- **Don't swear** – verse 12
It is easy to get frustrated and to do and say things, which are not helpful. James and Jesus said let your "Yes be yes and your no, be no".

Questions

- Does the Bible and James in particular condemn all rich people?
- What crimes have the wealthy committed in this passage?
- What makes people hoard and stockpile?
- On a scale of 1-10, how contented are you with your life and walk with God?
- How important is it to support organisations like Fair Trade?
- What are some of the ways impatience reveals itself in our lives?

Prayers & reminder

Special Church meeting 4 July.

Pray for those you know who are struggling. Pray for a spirit of love for God that will result in generosity and sowing into God's Kingdom.