

## 10. WARNINGS TO THE RICH

### REFLECTION

Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.

1. Think of a time when you were blessed by the generosity of a fellow believer. How did that affect your life?

### BIBLE READING

Read James 5:1–6 from the NCV or the NKJV.

#### NCV

<sup>1</sup>You rich people, listen! Cry and be very sad because of the troubles that are coming to you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have been eaten by moths. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days. <sup>4</sup>The pay you did not give the workers who mowed your fields cries out against you, and the cries of the workers have been heard by the Lord All-Powerful. <sup>5</sup>Your life on earth was full of rich living and pleasing yourselves with everything you wanted. You made yourselves fat, like an animal ready to be killed. <sup>6</sup>You have judged guilty and then murdered innocent people, who were not against you.

#### NKJV

<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! <sup>2</sup>Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

### DISCOVERY

Explore the Bible reading by discussing these questions.

2. In what ways do people oppress others for personal gain?

3. List some ungodly attitudes that cause oppression.
4. Why does God hear the cries of the oppressed?
5. How does God respond to the oppressed?
6. What results from self-indulgence?
7. List some of the negative effects that increased wealth can have on people's lives.
8. How should Christians view wealth?
9. How can you use your financial resources for God's glory?

## PRAYER

Father, keep us from being so blinded by earthly possessions that we fail to see the eternal treasure we cannot lose. Forgive us when we have worked for greed and gain. Thank you for the blessing of work and for the strength to do it for you.

## JOURNALING

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.

How content am I with my financial situation?

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

10. How can money keep you from doing God's work?
11. In what ways do you need to change your attitudes about money?

12. How can you use money to accumulate treasure in heaven?

For more Bible passages on warnings to the rich, see Proverbs 11:28; 23:4; Matthew 19:23, 24; Luke 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9, 10; 17–19.