



# A Heart Like His

**Session #11**

**James 5:1-6**

**"Trinkets vs True Treasure"**

## Start

- What is something that you've recently bought for yourself (or was bought for you?) Was it something you needed or something you wanted?
- What kind of influence does money and possessions have on our culture? Do you ever find yourself being influence by these things? If so, then how?
- Read James 5:1-6**

## Watch

*Use the space below to take notes while you watch the video.*



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## Discuss

- If you were in the shoes of the rich young man, would you have responded in a similar way or differently? Explain

*(Side note – I think there's a common misconception among some believers that this guy was disqualified from 'being a Christian'. I don't believe that is the case at all, and that this idea comes from not understanding the context of what was happening. Based on what Jesus demanded of the young man, it appears that Jesus was offering him an opportunity to be one of the disciples, but that he was not ready for that type of commitment.*

*The young man came to Jesus desiring to be 'complete' which is not the request of many Christ-followers, even today. Jesus's response to him was the hard truth about what it would take for him to actually experience 'completeness'. Just because his initial response was hesitation and remorse does not mean that he did not eventually accept the call to follow Jesus. In fact, there are some scholars who believe a strong case can be made that this young man was the gospel writer Mark.)*

- Why do you think money (and the stuff it can buy) has such a strong pull on us as humans?
- Do you typically think of yourself as wealthy? Compared to the rest of the world, do you think you would fall into the category of 'rich'?



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- How do you feel about James's harsh warning of condemnation that he gives to the corrupt property owners who were mistreating their workers? What part of his 'tirade' stood out to you the most?
- Do you agree that there is a danger to 'material prosperity'? In what ways can money and stuff be dangerous?
- When it comes to living generously, do you think that guilt is a good or bad motivator? Explain. Do you think that God would prefer for us to give a lot out of a sense of guilt or a little out of a feeling of gratitude and generosity?
- Brian talked about how we can fight against the deception of materialism by recognizing reality. He pointed out three realities that we need to be aware of:*
  - the reality of our own situation*
  - the reality that materialism leads to disappointment*
  - the reality that generosity is the antidote to materialism*

Which of these stood out to you the most and why?

- Which of these three realities do you have the hardest time recognizing in your own life?
- How much of a pull does money and stuff have on you and your family? What is one thing you can do to begin experiencing freedom from the tyranny of materialism?