

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. Using your wealth for your own greedy pleasures will lead to misery, 5:1-3, 5.
2. The wealthy who accumulate their wealth by greed, fraud and criminal influence, who gorge on the luxuries of life with those defrauded wages, are fattening themselves for the Lord's day of slaughter, 5:1-6.
3. When you make wealth your god, that god will kill you, 5:1-6 (cf. Psalm 115:4-8; 135:15-18).
4. The Lord will avenge those who are mistreated, defrauded, and murdered by the wealthy, 5:1-6.
5. The wealth of the wicked and greedy rich will rot them from the inside out, 5:2-3.
6. The fact that the Lord will one day return and set *EVERYTHING* right, including the wrongs we suffered, should make us relentlessly determined to suffer the wrongs of life patiently, 5:7-11.
7. Jesus notices when we condemn, when we sigh, groan, and complain about each other; He doesn't like it. We shouldn't do it, lest He condemn us, 5:9.
8. Jesus wants us to follow the example of His prophets, who suffered patiently when they did what He told them to do, 5:10.
9. Even the suffering the Lord allows into our lives is a sign of His compassion and mercy, 5:11.
10. The Lord intends to bless us with the suffering He brings us, 5:11 (cf. 1:2-4).
11. We shouldn't solemnly promise to keep our word; we should simply keep it, 5:12.
12. When you're suffering, God wants you to talk to Him, 5:13.
13. When you're happy, God wants you to sing His praises, 5:13.
14. When you're sick, Jesus wants you to call for your elders so they can ask Him to heal you, 5:14.
15. If your sickness is due to sin and the elders do what the Lord tells them (pray and anoint you with oil), the Lord will heal and forgive you, 5:14-15.
16. If you want your prayers to work, you must believe what you pray, 5:15 (cf. 1:6-8).
17. If our illness is due to sin, we must confess our sins to each other and pray for each other so that the Lord will heal us, 5:16.
18. If you're walking righteously before the Lord, He hears and answers your prayers, 5:16.
19. Elijah is seen as a spiritual giant, but God tells us that he was just like us. Thus, we can accomplish great things through prayer like he did, 5:17-18.
20. If your fellow Christian walked away from God and is living in sin, you can save their life by returning them to God's truth and thereby you will save them a lot of misery, 5:19-20.
21. We're not supposed to let our fellow Christians continue living in sin; God obligates us to help them out of it, 5:19-20.