



Series Life Tools

Passage James 5:1-11

Title Tools to Stay Focused

Speaker: Pastor David Menard 09/03/2017

- **Discussion Starter:** How would you categorize the different types of tools to stay focused that we learned about this past week? In what way have you been challenged to make some changes in your life?

Warning to the Rich (James 5:1-6; Luke 8:3; Matthew 6:19-21; Proverbs 11:1; Deuteronomy 25:13-16)

- We see that James seems to be singling out the rich and blasting them with a strong message that future miseries would be coming upon them. We know that many people in the Bible were very wealthy and that God blessed them with this wealth, so it is not wrong to be rich. If it is not wrong to be rich, then what is it about money and possessions that causes us to stumble?
- How can you recognize if you are having an issue with money?
- After reading Matthew 6:19-21, explain in your own words what it means to lay up your treasures in heaven.
- James blasts rich people in three ways: How they **HOARD** money, how they **OBTAIN** money and how they **SPEND** money. In our society, we are taught to plan for our future by saving and investing in retirement funds. How do these types of investments potentially apply to hoarding?
- According to Proverbs 11:1 and Deuteronomy 25:13-16, God views dishonest scales as an abomination in His eyes. What are some examples of how “dishonest scales” apply in how we obtain money or wealth in today’s world?
- What spiritual filters do you apply before making a big purchase?

Stay Focused. Jesus is Coming Back. (James 5:7-11; Jude 1:24-25; Matthew 5:11-12)

- In what area was James exhorting the brethren to show patience, and how does that relate to the lessons learned from the farmer, the prophets and Job?
- How are we encouraged by the promises in Jude 1:24-25 and Matthew 5:11-12? How do they enable us to stay focused until Jesus returns again?