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***“Look and Listen:***

***The Power and Peril of Wealth”***

**James 5:1-16**

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**Coast Hills Community Church**

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**Look!**

**The Power and Peril of Wealth: We Ignore God**

*Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.****2****Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.****3****Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment.* (James 5:1-3)

“We are so influenced by our culture that we must either ignore the call of Jesus, or radically reinterpret it.” Ron Sider

“Unfortunately we esteem a man for his wealth, but not his soul.” Seneca A.D. 50

“James is not interested in molding the Gospel into a shape demanded by society.” - David P. Nystrom

Matthew 6:19-21

1 Timothy 6:9-10

**It is a Matter of the Heart**

 Has our wealth blinded us to God?

 **God’s Heart is Generosity: Share don’t Hoard**

**Listen!**

**The Power and Peril of Wealth: We Ignore our Sisters and Brothers**

***4****For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.* ***5****You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter.****6****You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.* (James 5:4-6)

“The wealthy should understand that God takes is personally when we treat others like garbage, as if they do not deserve even our attention when they die” Nystrom

**It is a matter of the heart.**

“You have gorged (fattened) your **hearts** in the day of slaughter” v.5 (ESV)

“Instead of striving for a higher position, more power, and more influence, Jesus moves from the heights to the depths, from victory to defeat, from riches to poverty, from triumphs to suffering, from life to death.” Karl Barth

**Oppression**

Has our wealth made us deaf to others around us?

Are we deaf to their cries of the oppressed?

How does your wealth benefit others?

**Now What?**

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.* (Proverbs 4:23)

**Your heart, your values will guide your actions.**