



# Redeeming Notes

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August 15, 2004

Living Out A Faith That Works  
"Warning For Rich Oppressors"  
James 5:1-6

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James speaks here in the spirit of the Old Testament prophets, especially Amos.

## Four Indictments against the rich

### I. The indictment of hoarding. (vv. 2-3)

The sin is not having the **wealth**

The sin is the **poor use** of wealth

Luke 12:16-21

### II. The indictment of exploitation. (v. 4)

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

Malachi 3:5

### III. The indictment of extravagance. (v. 5)

Amos 6:4-6

### IV. The indictment of oppression. (v. 6)

Amos 2:6-7

Amos 5:11-12

## Two Differences between James and Karl Marx

1. (Basic analysis) James speaks of sins of **persons** not **faults of systems**.
2. (Ultimate solution) James looks to **the return** of Christ, not to the **revolution**.

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**READING PLAN:** *Meditate deeply on these connections from this week's teaching, asking yourself: 1) What does it say in general? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday – James 5:1-6

Tuesday – Matthew 6:19-21

Wednesday – Luke 12:16-34

Thursday – Deuteronomy 24: 14-15

Friday – Amos 2:6-7

## FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- 1) James seems to be condemning all rich persons. Is that true? If not, how can one be a good rich person?
- 2) How might the four indictments be true of us who are not hugely rich but rich enough?
- 3) Identify and discuss Marxist thought in America today. Where do we find it? What forms does it take?
- 4) Discuss the two crucial differences between James' and Marx's critique of society?