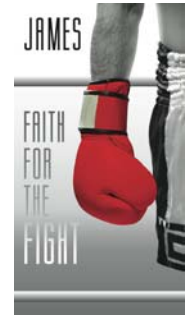


Faith For the Fight – Round 15

Life Group Questions – May 22, 2011

Pastor Jeff – Riches (James 5:1-6)



Connect

1. Describe a time you desperately wanted something, but once you got it, you were disappointed. Why didn't it meet your expectations? What did you learn?

Study

1. Read James 5:1-6—the most scathing words in his whole letter. Why does he place this strong warning here—how does it relate to the theme of the previous verses? Why does James warn so strongly—what value do warnings offer us?

2. Is James addressing all rich people or a certain group of the rich? Is he referring to non-Christians or believers in the church? Is it a sin to be rich?

3. How does James describe the rich people's lifestyle in these verses? What is the effect of their lifestyle on others around them?

4. If riches are a way "to keep score," James gives 3 examples of ancient riches. How can we tell if someone is rich today? Compared to the world, are you rich?

5. Of the 3 misuses of riches given by James (found in the message notes), which misuse do you have to watch out for in your own life?

6. Why is living in luxury & self-indulgence such a big deal? What are some popular forms of self-indulgence today? Can we enjoy but not be self-indulgent?

7. What are the consequences James gives (as listed in the message notes) for misusing riches? Which one gets your attention? What does he highlight these?

8. Read Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:32-34; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 13:16. What does God say (see message notes) are the wise uses of riches? Have you ever practiced one or more of these? What has doing these taught you?

9. In the next 7 days, (of the ideas listed on the back of the notes) what are you doing to wisely steward your riches? If you're willing, share it with the group.

Pray

How can you pray for each other this week?