

Sunday, October 1, 2023

## Our Folly

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### James 1:9-11, 5:1-6

"In the early 1900's, John D. Rockefeller was the richest man in the world. He was once famously asked by a reporter, "How much money is enough money?" Rockefeller replied, "Just a little bit more."

-Intro Series, **Wisdom Folly & In-between**. Proverbs 9. Wisdom cries out, yet so does folly. Wisdom promises life... Folly leads to death. We stand at the crossroads. By God's grace, may we walk the way of wisdom.

The book of James, known as the Proverbs of the NT, is leading the way.

**5 Major themes in James: God's Work, Faith Works, Our Works, Our Folly, Our Words.**

### Part 1 of OUR FOLLY

Pirates of the Caribbean; At Worlds end, the crew is stuck in Davy jones locker, representing the dimension of death. The way out is to flip the ship upside down at just the right time so they can come back to the land of the living, inducing a paradox; Upside down is right-side up.

*"G.K. Chesterton gave this magnificent definition of a paradox: 'A paradox is truth standing on its head shouting for attention.'"*<sup>1</sup>

This seems to define the wisdom of God. The way of life saying, "Up is down, down is up" Truth standing on its head shouting, **"Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight." Proverbs 9:6**

Today will feel a little different. We usually read and expound on it, then teach, & encourage. I am going to let the scriptures speak to us... I'll read a text and give you time to reflect and pray.

Let's start with a prayer of Moses.

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<sup>1</sup> James: Faith that Works. R. Kent Hughes

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, **please show me now your ways**, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight." Exodus 33:12-13

**Pray that God would show us his way.**

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Luke 6:20

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

*Here is wisdom for Christians of every age, all whom live in a world that equates prosperity with happiness and God's blessing and humble circumstances with misery and God's displeasure. R. Kent Hughes*

Jesus teaches that the poor are spiritual advantaged.

**Reflect on the wisdom of God. May we walk in His ways**

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. James 1:9-11

**Reflect on the wisdom of God. May we walk in His ways**

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

**"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21**

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. James 5:1-6

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

“Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.”

And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:30-36

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24

A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched. Proverbs 28:25

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

**Reflect on the wisdom of God, May we walk in His ways**

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:23-26

It's time for us to flip the ship and walk in the way of LIFE!

**Our only hope is Jesus! → GOSPEL → Family Communion**