

<p><b>A. INTRODUCTION.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊕ The <b>context</b> of the text: James uses Leviticus 19:12-18 as the backbone of today's text.</li> <li>⊕ The <b>aim</b> of the text: to fulfil the royal law in Leviticus 19:18, "<i>You shall love your neighbor as yourself.</i>"</li> <li>⊕ Who is James speaking to? Most arguably the <b>rich unbelievers</b>. James brings four charges against these greedy rich. Today, we will discover three aspects of greed.</li> </ul>	<p>⊕ <b>Reflection Questions</b></p>
<p><b>B. TEXT'S OUTLINE.</b></p> <p><b>1. Greed leads to misery (vv.1-3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The #1 charge: the hoarding of wealth.</li> <li>▪ Misery is coming upon you because you have sinfully sought your own pleasure and have rejected God's ways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the eternal value of my ill-possessed wealth compared to the coming judgment?</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Greed is seen by God (v.4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The #2 charge: The rich were cheaters.</li> <li>• The poor workers were exploited by heartless and exploitative bosses,</li> <li>• first with un fair and low wages, and now their wage were withheld.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do I respond to the cries of those whom I have wronged or neglected, knowing that God hears their suffering and will hold me accountable?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Greed is self-deceiving (vv.5-6).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The #3 and #4 charges:</li> <li>▪ They spent their wealth in self-indulgent living.</li> <li>▪ They abuse their wealth, influence, and power to bring about injustice and death.</li> <li>• The irony of the rich, who believe in luxury, is actually preparing their hearts for God's judgment, referred to as "<i>a day of slaughter.</i>"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do my life and possessions enhance or diminish the lives of the poor, and am I prioritizing heaven over worldly wealth?</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. CONCLUSION.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two practical lessons we can apply in our lives.</li> <li>1. Be Rich for God.</li> <li>• Desire heavenly riches.</li> <li>2. Money must be treated as a <b>means</b> and never as an end unto itself.</li> <li>• Be generous!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are my treasures?</li> <li>• Will my money bear fruit for God's benefit and glory?</li> </ul>