

A landscape photograph featuring a vast field of bright yellow flowers, likely rapeseed, in the foreground. A single, dark green tree stands prominently on the horizon line. The sky above is a clear, vibrant blue, dotted with several large, fluffy white cumulus clouds. The overall scene is bright and open, suggesting a rural or agricultural setting.

Prosperity and Charity

JAMES 5:1-6

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

(1 Tim. 6:10)

The danger is not in wealth, but in loving wealth so that it blots out love for God and other people.

Hidden costs/dangers of wealth

- **debt**
- **debris**
- **disconnect**

God's concern about wealth...

✓ HOW did you get it?

✓ WHAT are you doing with it?

James 5:1 “Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.”

- ***Wealth* is worthless against wrath.**
- Even if material bounty did bring happiness in this life, it leaves us woefully unprepared.

Do not store up for yourselves
treasures on earth... but store up for
yourselves treasures in heaven...
for where your treasure is, there your
heart will be also. (*Mt. 6:19-21*)

The lure of wealth tempts us to exploit...
so that we **take** without **giving**
or leverage an advantage in a way
that **treats** others **unfairly**.

Like the partridge that hatches eggs
it did not lay is the man who gains
riches by unjust means... in the end he
will prove to be a fool. (*Jer. 17-11*)

Do to others as you would have
them do to you. (*Luke 6:31*)

- Is my lifestyle one of “luxury and self indulgence”? (vs. 5)

- Does my “saving” amount to “hoarding”? (vs. 3)

- What can I give to advance God's kingdom?

- How can I be generous or share my resources with the needy?

- How can I be sensitive to [notice] needs?