THE EVIDENCE OF JUDGEMENT

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic: The Evidence of Judgement
Bible Text: James 5:1-6

Prayer

Father Almighty, thank You for Your grace upon us tonight, thank You because You love us, thank You because You will speak to us tonight, please open our understanding to understand Your Scripture, help us to understand and live our live the way that pleases You, at the end let Your holy name be glorified, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Introduction

You are all welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's study is not one that calls for laughter at all, you may read it and begin to weep, for the Holy Ghost can cause a godly sorrow in your heart, which would finally lead to eternal joy if you do not joke with it. Let's humble ourselves before the Lord and let these words of life create necessary impacts it should in our lives.

Bible Text: James 5:1-6

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. [2] Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. [3] Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. [4] Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. [5] Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. [6] Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Study

What is evidence?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is something that furnishes proof: testimony. It can also be an attestation, confirmation, corroboration, documentation, proof, substantiation, testament, testimonial, testimony, validation, voucher, or witness for something or against it. If we are talking about the word **judgment**, it is something we are familiar with as the **process of forming an opinion or evaluation by discerning and comparing.** Therefore, in regard to this study, an evidence of judgment is a proof, an attestation, or a witness that will stand against someone on the Day of Judgment.

Can you see that it's a serious matter?

The Day of Judgment is not a day to joke with. It is not a day of joy or laughter. It is not a day of merriment or happiness. It is a day of fear, darkness, and gloominess—a day of tears, sorrow, weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Many will find it too late to escape on that day. It is a day when the mighty will fall, and the strong will weep. It is indeed a terrible day. "That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." **– Zephaniah 1:15. The** Day of Judgment is a time of ultimate accountability when every hidden thing will be brought to light.

Many live without considering the weight of that day, but the truth remains that evidence—whether for or against—will be presented before the righteous Judge."For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." **– Ecclesiastes 12:14**

Some might begin to say, **What kind of message is this?** because it is not sweet and does not make anyone happy. But this is what we need to escape for our souls.

Are you with me?

In this chapter, James the Apostle begins by addressing the rich. One would not but wonder why he used the tone of language he did to address them until one reaches verse 6. The way James makes the judgment of these people known calls for caution and soberness. At first, one might think God is against the rich, but as we read on, we see that it is directed at some specific rich men. In **James 5:1,** James says, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you." It is as if he is saying, **Look here, I am talking to you. Pay rapt attention to my words, for they are serious ones that you must hear and take heed to.** And who were those he was talking to? The rich. He tells them to weep and groan with anguish because there are many terrible things ahead of them.

Only if the rich would think of what is ahead and not just the present, they would know how best to behave in this passing world. This is what the apostle calls their attention to. He says they must begin weeping and groaning now because the trouble ahead is terrible, and they will not be able to bear it. And because their riches will not be relevant then, this calls for more sorrow, for riches do not save in the day of God's wrath. He goes further to make the temporality of riches known. **James 5:2** says, "Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten." Though they gather wealth now, yet it will fade away and become useless. No matter how rich a man can be, one day his wealth will become useless to him.

This is a call to those in government who embezzle public funds to enrich themselves. This is the time for them to begin to mourn and lament, for their wealth is rotting away, and their fine clothes are moth-eaten. Though they may be deficient of inner eyes to see these things, yet, these are coming upon them soon. They will see how foolish they have been to trust in riches rather than in God. **James 5:3 KJV–** "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."Their gold and silver have become worthless, James says. These are the things they have kept as treasures on earth and have set their minds on, refusing to seek the things above now. This stockpile will fail them, and the very wealth they were counting on will eat away their flesh in hell, for these are the very things that will stand as evidence against them on the Day of Judgment.

This matter is a serious one, and if carefully looked into, we would see that Apostle James was not smiling at all when he wrote this epistle. This kind of message is the type that this generation hates so much and would stamp judgment out because they have itchy ears and hate to hear the raw truth of God's Word. Many would have crucified the innocent Apostle for performing his duty as sent by God, saying he is condemning and not preaching love. James says, "**Behold**," which can also be translated as "**look**" or "**listen**," making his tone not a friendly one at all.

James 5:4 KJV – "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."Hear the cries of the field workers, whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you have kept back cry out against you. This is a serious matter. All

those concerned must fall down on their knees and weep to God, or else He would not look upon them with mercy, forgive them, and leave a blessing behind. **Joel 2:12-14 KJV** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: [13] And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. [14] Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? Now we are beginning to see why James was somewhat harsh with his message to these specific rich men. God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he shall reap. Although we have the poor cheating the poor too, and even the poor cheating the rich, all these will not go unpunished. But here, James addresses the rich who, in their luxury, think they are God and that no one can checkmate their decisions. They would live to regret all they have done, for there is evidence of judgment against them.

Are you following carefully?

Those who are wicked to their employees should hear this carefully. For every one of their entitlements in your hands, the Lord will require from you. Do not think that you will go scot-free. Their wages that are still with you, which you ought to have paid them, are crying against you. Today, there are many evidences of judgment waiting to stand against the rich in our world. And James is telling them to begin to weep and lament now because they will not be able to withstand the ruin and judgment that is coming upon them. For God will not spare anyone who remains adamant. **Deuteronomy 24:14 KJV –** "Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates."

The Lord God Almighty carefully placed this commandment in the Scriptures so that all may read and understand, because God will never take the matters of the poor lightly. Those who oppress and cheat the poor are in serious trouble, which they may not be aware of. If we look well into the Scriptures, we will see that in all the places God mentioned the matter of oppressing the poor, it is always a serious one. This is because most times, they cannot fight for themselves, but God then comes to their aid. **Proverbs 14:31 KJV –** "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."God is their Maker.

By oppressing them, many have passed their boundaries. Oppression of the poor now comes in different ways today, and it happens in different sectors of society, such as workplaces, churches, government, homes, schools, and other places. No matter the place or sector, God is the avenger of the poor. For the rich who oppress the poor, there are evidences of judgment against them. This talks about evidences of what they have done that prove to God and to them that they are qualified for God's fearful judgment. You who oppress others, what are the evidences of judgment waiting for you at the judgment throne? Remember that every form of cheating the poor is an evidence against you.

James 5:4 KJV – "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth."

I will mention some of the evidences of judgment that would qualify many for God's fearful judgment:

1. Those who withhold their workers' wages and would not pay them at all or on time.

2. Those who owe the salary of workers and keep it in the bank to yield interest while the poor are suffering.

3. Those who are possessed with the Laban syndrome—changing the wages of their workers many times to prevent them from profiting.

4. Those who devise deceitful means to deduct the salaries of those working for them, thereby oppressing them.

5. Those who use false scales in their businesses.

6. Those who embezzle public funds should know that the evidence will stand against them on the Day of Judgment.

7. Those who are given money for a project and divert part of it to do substandard work should be ready to face judgment.

8. Those who maltreat their house helps should be ready to face judgment.

9. Those who give bribes to avoid the disconnection of their water and electricity supply.

10. Those who refuse to clear the debts of their children's school fees and withdraw them to another school should know that this evidence is waiting for them on Judgment Day.

11. Husbands who spend money on strange women outside their homes but refuse to take care of their own families, giving

excuses that they do not have money, are oppressors in disguise, and judgment is waiting for them.

12. Wives who do not pay their children's school fees when given the money by their husbands but instead keep it in savings to yield interest will stand to answer for judgment.

13. Pastors and ministers who spend church money lavishly and embezzle it—these evidences are waiting for them.

14. Those involved in fraudulent activities should know that the evidence of what they are doing is waiting for them.

This is a serious matter. James says: **James 5:5 KJV –** "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."By virtue of your wickedness, you have spent your life in luxury, satisfying your whims, living like a king. You lived comfortably, like princes. You have gained the world through dubious means, training your children in comfort at the expense of other children's hardship. No problem. You are already dead on arrival at the Day of Judgment.

You have fattened yourself in the day of slaughter, living in merriment daily as if that is all there is to life, while those whom you have cheated are suffering. You took the pension of aged people and put it in an account for months to yield interest for yourself, while they languish in poverty, and some have died because they had no money to take care of themselves. Can you now see how wicked you are? And yet, you are planning to make heaven? What you have done is an evidence against you for judgment.

See what James is telling you again: **James 5:6 –** "Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you."
Ah!, and you think God does not see? You think God will not plead the cause of the weak? You who judge and condemn the just and justify the guilty—do you think you will be left unpunished? Lawyers who defend offenders who are clearly found guilty, yet keep twisting the matter and telling lies to set the guilty free—are you exempted? Are not the evidences crying against you? The righteous do not have the power to resist you. They cannot defend themselves. So you have your way, and you feel all is right? **Jeremiah 22:13 KJV –** "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work."

Can you see? **Woe**—that is, calamity and troubles—are set for this group of people. The evidences of judgment remain standing. Do you cover your sins? Do you bribe the government to have your way? You cannot bribe God, and you will not escape. **Malachi 3:5 KJV** – "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts."

This kind of message is hard and serious, but it is what can deliver you from judgment. If you are guilty of any of the things the Lord has brought to your attention through this message, and the ones the Holy Spirit is impressing on your heart, and the evidences of what you have done are standing against you—there is a way out for you to escape.

Should I go on?

How to Destroy the Evidences That Qualify You for God's Fiery Judgment and Escape for Your Soul.

1. Receive genuine salvation– Hebrews 2:3 – "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?"Do away with false salvation and seek Jesus Christ genuinely. Be born again.

2. Ask God for mercy and forgiveness – Isaiah 55:7 – "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."God is merciful. He will forgive you. Remember, this must be done while you are still alive—there is no repentance in the grave.

3. Confess your sins and forsake them – Proverbs 28:13 – "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."Confess all the evil things you have done to God and do not go back to them. This means change.

4. Restitute where necessary – Ezekiel 33:15 – "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die."The Holy Spirit will impress upon your heart the areas where restitution is required. Do as instructed. Correct your mistakes as prompted.

5. Ask God for grace to live a changed life – 2 Corinthians 9:8 – "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. God can enable you to live as a changed person, and

by this, you will be able to take your stand against any enticement of the enemy.

6. Be prayerful. Always pray against covetousness – Psalm 119:36 – "Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness."The Lord wants to take covetousness out of your heart, only if you would be sincere.

In all, God is merciful and wants to destroy every evidence that is already standing against you for judgment—only if you will do the right thing expected of you. But if you choose to remain adamant, then you should be expecting God's wrath at the end of your life, which you will not be able to bear.

I pray you will not position yourself for God's fiery judgment, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Please pray the following prayers if you know that there are evidences standing against you for judgment:

1. Lord, have mercy on me and forgive every sin that stands as evidence against me on the Day of Judgment, in Jesus' name.

2. Father, deliver me from every form of oppression and injustice, and help me to walk in righteousness and integrity, in Jesus' name.

3. Lord, remove covetousness from my heart and help me to seek heavenly treasures rather than earthly riches, in Jesus' name.

4. Father, give me the grace to make restitution where necessary and to correct every wrong I have done, in Jesus' name.

5. Lord, help me to be faithful in all my dealings, that I may not partake in the judgment of the wicked, in Jesus' name.

6. Father, open the eyes of those who oppress the poor and cheat others, that they may repent and escape Your fierce judgment, in Jesus' name.

7. Lord, let Your grace abound toward me, that I may live a life that pleases You and escape eternal condemnation, in Jesus' name.

This is the end of this study, do have a lovely day.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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