James 4 and 5

1. Why do we not speak evil against one another? Because we are created in the image of God. Colossians 1:15-20; Romans 8:29; Philippians 2:5

2. Do we plan for the future?

Is it a sin to buy Life Insurance? As long as our security is in Christ.

3. How is it arrogance to live according to our plans?

We are saying God's plans aren't good enough. Romans 8:28

Matthew 6:33 Not talking about retirement, or getting the house we want. Seek first the Kingdom. We pray this in the Lord's Prayer: Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done.

James 5:1-6

4. Are you rich?

5. How do riches testify against us?

6. What kinds of riches are evil?

7. What are we to use riches for?
   James 2:16, Matthew 25. Are we following consumerism or Jesus?

Matthew 6:19ff

Being content with the Father's approval and Father's blessing. Life lived out with the relation with our heavenly Father in charity, mercy, prayer and fasting.

In our culture there is this evil impulse for Luxury at the expense of generosity. Unthinking assumption that we would always be improving our standard of living.

First- Every follower of Jesus must acknowledge this danger. No one, rich or poor, is immune; no one!

Second- All of us fall into the following trap: What we yearn to acquire tends, once we have them, to become necessities that we can no longer live without.

Third- When we hear Jesus' call not to store up things on earth, we should assume that we have fallen short of the calling and repent. If ever in doubt, check quickly to see if you have flesh and blood by pinching yourself. If you are, the you have need for repentance, growth, and renewal in Christ!

Fourth- What does it mean to treasure up things in heaven? The primary response is to turn and believe again that our foundation is Christ, what He has done for us, and the identity He has bestowed upon us.

If we are spending much of our time treasuring up stuff on earth, it means I have precious little time and resources to help and love my neighbor

Valuing the things of God, what He says are important

The bottom line is that our American necessities are not God's necessities. How then do we learn not serve two masters? The answer is "do not worry'. Why don't I worry. Because of what God is like. We hear Jesus' words we see that the emphasis in our lives has been too much on possessions and money revealing that we are spiritually poor, repentance drives us back to the beginning of Jesus' sermon where He reveals that the poor in spirit are blessed and gives us the kingdom.

8. Why is the righteous person condemned and murdered?