



Title: To Far Gone?

Date: 12.13.09

Series: WWJD (What Would James Do?)

Text: James 5:1-6

Synopsis: In our culture I think it is safe to say that we object to those who use their position to gain wealth at the expense of other people. The recent outrage towards Bernie Madoff (who swindled billions of dollars from people, corporations and even charitable organizations) is still fresh in our memories and rightfully so. Whether a rogue government that consumes the nations wealth while the people starve or a landlord who overcharges his poor tenants, our collective sense of justice is shocked when we hear of such abuse.

But let's face it. Most of us aren't Bernie Madoff, Saddam Hussein, or even sleazy slumlords. Yet the capacity for the human heart to sin is as great in each one of us "regular folks" as it is in an infamous swindler or dictator. Jesus said, "You can't serve God and money." Those paths run in opposite directions. James confirms this by casting the final indictment on those who have used their wealth and prominence to destroy the innocent. Left unchecked, our hearts run after the things of this world until we find ourselves very far from God; sometimes so far, that it is impossible find our way back.