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### Money – But No Capacity to Enjoy It'

W. O. Vaught

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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"MONEY--BUT NO CAPACITY TO ENJOY IT"

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES  
NUMBER 37  
JAMES 5:1

Dr. W. O. Vaught  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

JAMES 5:1 "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you."

God has a system called grace, but there are so few to whom God can give. God found a way in grace to give to you, but if you have no grace capacity, then God can't give to you. Every believer should pray every day that he will be able to open his mind to God, thereby, making it possible for God to pour, and pour and pour until he can exclaim with David, "My cup runneth over." In super grace there is capacity for life and for love and for happiness.

Include A Place For God's Provision

God's grace has made provision for all of us. In the Devil's world the only place where grace can pour out blessings is in the super grace life. Let us pause and ask ourselves this question--"Do we really want exactly what God in grace wants to give us?" If you can answer that question with a resolute yes, then I can tell you how this will come about in your life. The way to enter the super grace life is to fill your mind with the Word of God. The whole Book of James is on this point. Which road are you on, the road of the reversionist, or the road that leads to super grace? Remember this--you never stand still in the Christian life. I know this is true, we either go up or down. No man, even for a day, can stay the way he is. The road of the reversionist is where YOU try to make YOU happy. YOU do a thousand little things, and when YOU try to make YOU happy, YOU make YOU miserable. Who do you think you are? Do you think you can play God and do for yourself what only God can do? You are just not qualified to make yourself happy. You do not have the ability to do such a thing.

Men Try Everything

This passage introduces us to this idea. Some say, "I'll go out and get drunk and then I'll be happy." Or others say, "I'll go and commit immorality and that will make me happy." Or someone else says, "I'll buy me a new car and that will make me happy." Or another will say, "I'll make me a million dollars and that will make me happy." This is what our passage is going to answer for us. This verse is the atmosphere of "Step aside, God, and I'll make my own happiness" but this is just a false illusion.

JAMES 5:1 "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you." We have the words "age" plus "nun." "Age" is a present, active, imperative and with the temporal adverb "nun" should be translated "Ah! Come on now." Evidently these people had given James some flack about what he had taught. So he is going to straighten these people out. He addresses this to the rich who think they are going to be happy because they have money.

Money Does Not Necessarily Bring Happiness

For some reason, most people believe that if they could just have plenty of money, they would be happy. But remember this, there are thousands of people who have great wealth but many of them are the most miserable people on earth. So what is it that is involved here?

It is the difference of reversionism and super grace. The difference is in the soul. Down in verses 7 and 8 of this chapter James is going to outline what God can do for the individual. But in the first six verses of this chapter James is going to take us on a trip with a reversionist and show us how miserable a reversionist can be. James is going to introduce us to a believer who is extremely wealthy. Before we look at this wealthy reversionist, let's look for a moment at the road he might have travelled.

#### The Road Of Super Grace

If this reversionist in our story had just taken another route, if he had only gone the super grace route, he would have been exceedingly happy. He actually could have had the greatest happiness in all the world. You see, God is just waiting to pour out his blessings on a super grace wealthy believer who is willing to travel the super grace road. When you put super grace living and wealth and Bible Doctrine together in a life, then you get fantastic happiness every time. God will grace out a wealthy man just as quickly as he will grace out a poor man. The only thing that can hurt a rich man is the road of reversionism.

#### Look at these principles.

1. God wants you to be happy all the time.
2. In eternity past, God found a way to do this and this is called grace.
3. God found a way to give abundantly to a super grace believer and still not violate his perfect character of grace. God isn't ever hung up on helping the human race and every time he helps an individual, his action is perfect and just. The cross gave God the capacity to love us perfectly.
4. You can't take justice and righteousness and put them up on the shelf and then just launch out on the basis of love. Well, I guess one could do that, but if he did he would certainly get things all mixed up quickly. But God keeps his perfect justice and righteousness in focus and loves us at the same time, keeping all these things in perfect balance. Since we have passed the point of propitiation when we were saved, God is now free to love us and give to us without limit. But there is a problem God faces, and the problem lies within us. Propitiation is the point where God was set free to give to us, but God can't give to a believer who had no capacity to receive his gift. (Illustration--I gave my little son a football before he was able to understand what it was all about. I thought it was a great idea because I was so fond of football, but he didn't respond to my bright idea.) God can't give to us unless we have capacity to respond to his gift. God's problem is not in him but in us. God didn't have any problem as far as he was concerned in taking the children of Israel into the Promised Land. The problem was in the stubborn people. He was ready to take them in any day, but they had to wander around forty years and let the faithless ones die off before the others could enter the land.

God's Problem--Our Capacity

This rich man in our story is just like every other rich reversionist. He can't fake it and he can't fool God into pouring out blessings on him when he didn't have anything into which God could pour. So our verse begins by saying, "Ah! Come on now, you right man." In essence this rich man said this to God--"Now look, God, I'll see you in eternity, but for the here and now, I'm going to have my good times and I'm going to have my kind of friends and I'm going to live it up." So that leads us to the next two words in the story, for those two words describe the result of this rich man's frantic search for happiness. The first word is "weep" and this is an aorist, active, imperative of "klaio." It really means "break out crying." He was having his fling and thought it was supposed to bring him happiness, instead he broke out crying. The second word is "howl" and this is a present, active indicative of "ololuzo." He started out crying and it led into a tantrum and this means total frustration. The change from aorist to present tense here shows that his misery continued right on day after day, month after month and year after year. The reason was this--he had no capacity for God to accomplish in him his great super grace work. Money isn't the issue here. Capacity in the soul of this rich man is the issue. To get capacity, volition is involved. You have to choose God's way in order to develop capacity.

Money Not The Real Issue

After all, money isn't really so hard to get. If you set your head to it, you can go out and make a bundle. God could give every person in this room a million dollars and it wouldn't deplete his supply. But the question it would bring up is this: If you should get a million dollars tonight, where would you be next Sunday and next Wednesday night? I'll tell you where most of you would be. You would be out there somewhere trying to make another million and most of you would not even be giving this church a thought. Most of us just don't have the capacity to handle money like that. It would just practically blow us all right out of the saddle.

What about you?

Let me ask you girls a question tonight. If you were to meet your right man tomorrow, would you have the capacity to handle the situation? If you boys were to meet your right woman, would you have the capacity to play the part of a real man and be what God expects you to be? The whole difference is capacity. The only way you are going to develop capacity is to learn Bible Doctrine. God isn't going to stand there before you like some great glorified Santa Claus with his arms filled with good things and give them to you when you don't have any capacity to handle them.

It happened here

We have a timely illustration of this right here in our church program now. God was just waiting for me to start saying something significant about his Word and the moment I did, he opened the way for the message to flow out to many others. He gave us the color television and the tape ministry and he will give us much more if we will just allow him to expand our capacity. Will we have the capacity to go on beyond these things? Time will tell. It is as if God is saying something like this to me. "Immanuel, I've been looking here in your locker in my great eternal storehouse of blessings, and I sure have a lot of nice things I want to do for you. Do you have the capacity to receive what I want to give?"



God has authority and power and money and success and he wants to share these things with so many, but alas, they have no capacity to receive what God wants to give. No man yet has ever reached up to take all that God is reaching down to give. That is, no man except Christ. On the cross Jesus reached up and took all that God was reaching down to give.

Don't try to play God.

Probably our greatest fault is this: We try to play God and we try to supply these things that only God can supply. If we will only increase the capacity, God will take care of the supply. God is saying to us tonight "Stop trying to play God and get your cup ready and I'll do the pouring at the right time and in the right way." So, if we will just let his Word flow into us day after day, he will begin to pour and we will be amazed at the wonderful capacity of God.

Definition

Look at this definition of the super grace life. THE SUPER GRACE LIFE IS THE CAPACITY TO ENJOY WHAT GOD PROVIDES. So James says to those rich Jews, "Ah! Come on now, you right men." You see, at the very time James wrote these words many Jews were giving all their time making money and they didn't realize that very shortly after these words were written, Jerusalem would be destroyed and they would be scattered all over the earth. So God says to them, "You rich reversionists, you took the wrong road and all you are going to get out of it is screaming and howling and misery."

Just suppose you had a million dollars but had no capacity for handling it. A million dollars minus capacity to handle it means frustration. So whether you realize it or not, the most important thing in your Christian life is capacity.

The word for miseries is "talaiporia" and it means a wretched state, it means calamity. This is always the state of the reversionist. "That shall come upon you" is a present, middle, participle of "eiserchomai." This is a futuristic present to show an event that had not occurred but it is certain to occur. In other words, reversionism produces weeping and screaming every time. This is a law of life and it works this way under all circumstances. Misery will come to you if you walk this road. The middle voice is used here to show that the misery will come to you personally and there is no way for you to avoid it.

The main thrust of this verse is this--Capacity is your problem and mine. There is nothing wrong on God's end of the line. The wrong lies in us. If we have a cup, then God will pour.