

The Fool and the Wise

James 1:9-12

James 1:9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

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“For the wise men of old, the cardinal problem of human life was how to conform the soul to objective reality, and the solution was wisdom, self-discipline, and virtue. For the modern, the cardinal problem is how to conform reality to the wishes of man, and the solution is technique.” – C.S. Lewis, The Abolition of Man, 88.

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What are the barriers to wisdom?

- A secular mindset
- A sin-forgetful mindset
- Pridefulness

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A Word to the Poor

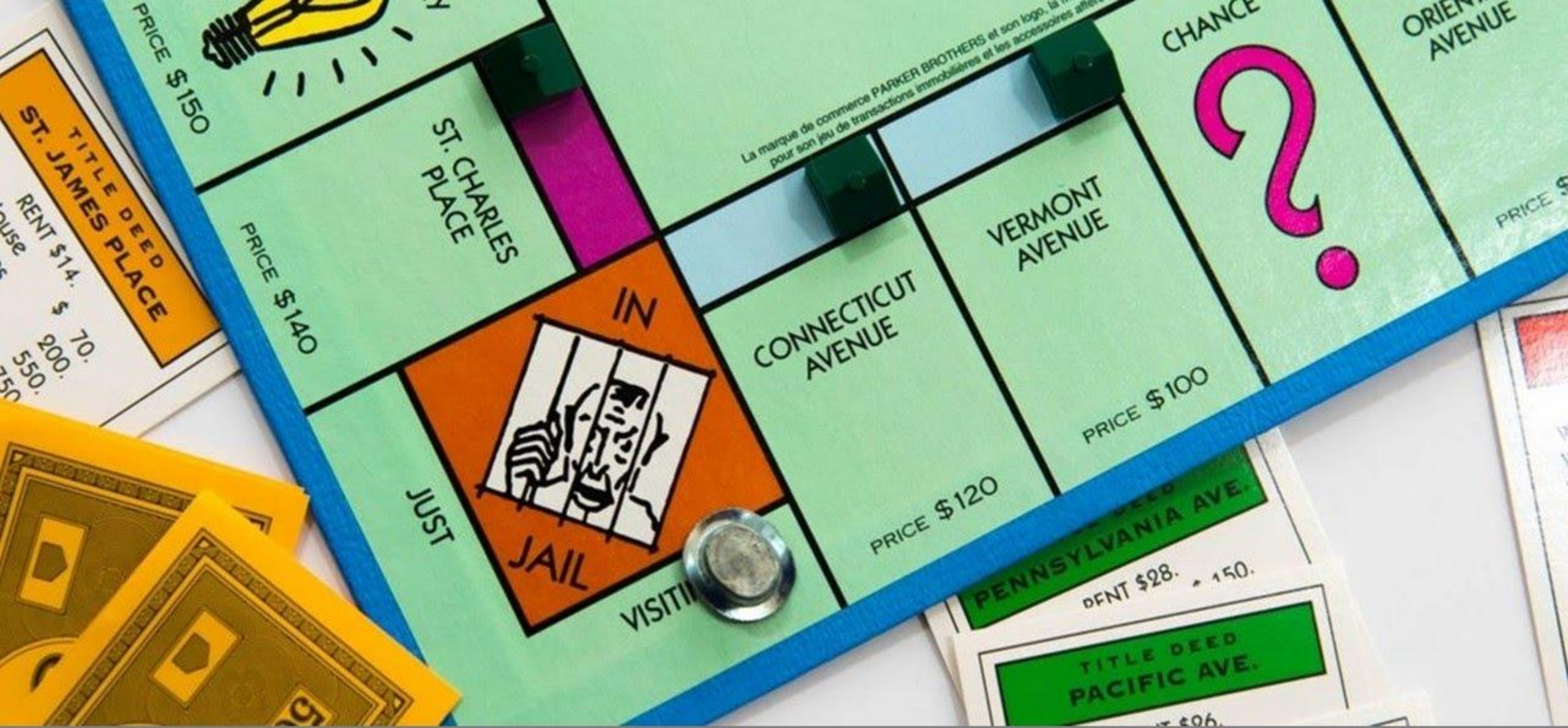
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A Word to the Rich

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When The Game Is Over...
It All Goes Back In The Box
Luke 12: 13-21

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Luke 12:16 “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

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The fool

The *moros* was lacking in character; the moral reprobate, like a drunken ol' fool.

The *aphron* - a “no mind”. The fool lacks an understanding of the reality of spiritual truth which leads to an unwise ordering of one's life.

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²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

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1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.