

Supplemental Scriptures

Luke 12:15-21 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 16:9-13 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Proverbs 23:5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Matthew 25:21-23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Hebrews 13:5&6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Malachi 3: 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Set Free – Ron Marsh

March 29, 2020

Breaking the Stronghold of Materialism: 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Matt. 6:19-34

Stronghold: A prisoner trapped by _____

Materialism: An excessive desire for _____ or _____

* _____ requires attention—who am I serving?

1. How materialism becomes a stronghold

- Materialism _____

Promises _____, significance & happiness

- Materialism _____

Darkens your _____, character and relationship with God

2. Why materialism becomes a stronghold

- Materialism is an _____ that competes with God

Connects to our deepest _____

Demands protection and _____

3. How to be set free from the stronghold of materialism

- _____ yourself to God—Make Jesus your treasure

Ask: What is my “precious” right now?

- _____ your material mindset

Spender (wildflowers)—Saver (birds)—Steward

- _____ against attachments to things or substances

- _____ the ownership issue by giving generously

* _____ loosely..._____ sufficiently..._____ extravagantly

Life Group Ice Breaker

1. How much money, savings and possessions do you think you need to be secure both now and in the future?

Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
3. When it comes to looking at materialism (money and possessions), what's the tension you feel? 40% of Jesus' teachings (every 3rd sermon) were on money and possessions. Why do you think He talked so much about it?
4. How has materialism—the excessive desire for money or things impacted you, your family and your friends?

5. Read Luke 12:15-21. When it comes to ownership, storing up and possessions, what message is Jesus trying to communicate in this parable? Why do you think materialism can be so blinding?

Application Questions & Prayer

6. Take the Spender, Saver, Steward Quiz posted on the home page of our website www.gatewaybible.org? Which one most describes you? What can you do in a practical way to move towards becoming more of a Steward?
7. Sacrificial giving is one way to loosen the grip of materialism. What is God asking that you (your family) do during this season of need in our world? What does it look like to “hold loosely, live sufficiently and give extravagantly”?
8. Pray as a family or group that we would be a people who would live for eternal things, steward the temporal things and store up treasures.