

Lesson 5: The Truth About Money

GOALS

1. To help students realize they are idol worshippers, typically of their possessions
2. To examine what Scripture says about money
3. To show students a Godly way of using their money

Topics: Idols, Stewardship

Scripture Memorization: Matthew 6:24

OPENING PRAYER

GETTING STARTED

This week we're going to start with a story.

Mark Driscoll, a preacher in Seattle, talks about a time he was in India working as a missionary. While traveling through a remote place, they happened upon a temple where the local people worshipped idols. There was chicken blood and evidence of idol worship everywhere.

His story is accurate to the situation in that country. There are temples to other gods, there are Muslims and Buddhists and all kinds of other idolatrous religions. However, when Mr. Driscoll asked a native, who had visited the United States of America many times before, what he liked least about America, the native responded that he could not handle the idolatry.

- What do you think of that story?
- Do you believe that America is an idolatrous place? Why/why not?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as an idol worshipper?

The truth is, we are idol worshippers in one way or another. We may not sacrifice chickens or build golden statues, but we worship things other than God. Usually, our idolatry has something to do with money.

DIGGING IN

The Bible is clear: we can't serve God and money. We will always worship one more than the other. The Bible is also clear on the fact that we should worship nothing other than God.

Read Matthew 6: 24.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the problem with trying to serve two masters?
2. Who or what "masters" are trying to gain your loyalty right now?

"He that is of the opinion money will do everything

may well be suspected of doing everything for money."
Benjamin Franklin

Read Exodus 20:4,5a; Ezekiel 36:18 and 1 John 5: 21

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God say about serving idols?
2. In today's world, how can we keep ourselves from idol worship practically?

One of the biggest problems with idols is that they can never completely satisfy our desires. God wants us to serve Him, not to ruin our fun, but because only He knows what's best for us. Idols, on the other hand, especially money, never have our best interest in mind.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10,11

Discussion Questions:

1. How important is money to you? Does it show?
2. What do these verses say about contentment?

"Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants."
Benjamin Franklin

I want to change the tone of our conversation and stop asking the question "What do you think of money?" Instead, I want to ask and answer the question "What does God think of money?" Furthermore, what are His expectations on how we treat and think of it?

Read the following passages:

(Ask each of the discussion questions after reading each passage. The questions are meant to define money and possessions from a Scriptural perspective. Some may not apply to each Scripture.)

Matthew 6:19-21 Luke 6:20 Acts 5:1-6 James 1:9-11

Discussion Questions:

1. What does that Scripture say about the use of money?
2. How should we use money based on this passage?
3. Which is better—to be rich or to be poor? Why?
4. What is the danger of being too tied up in our monetary wealth?

Some of you may not think you have an unhealthy attachment to money. Some of you may not think you worship stuff. But let's break this down and make it real. **MAKING IT REAL** The truth is, money in itself is not bad, evil, or wrong. But when we have an unhealthy attachment to it or the things we can buy with it, then our worship moves from God to money. **CLOSING PRAYER**

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