

Week Four: “Roadblocks to Giving”

Day One: “Heaven, Not Earth, Is My Home”

Read: Hebrews 11:13-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1433)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, p. 44 to bottom of p. 49

Reflect: Jesus says that we are to be “in” this world but not “of” this world. What do you think that means?

How are you doing in making that distinction?

Dig: According to verse 13, did these people receive rewards in this life?

How did they think of themselves and thus how did they describe themselves?

What were these people longing for?

What was God’s response to their longing and the way they chose to live? See verse 16.

Apply: Write a prayer based on your own feelings for this world and the world to come in the light of this lesson today.

Week Four: “Roadblocks to Giving”
Day Two: “Possession Obsession”

Read: Matthew 13:1-23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1094)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, top of p. 50 to top of p. 53

Reflect: How much do you worry about finances and have thoughts about what money could do for you?

Dig: Write out what the two issues were in the third soul that presented good fruit (see verse 22).

How is wealth described?

What do these “thorns” choke out?

According to 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (FiCB, p. 1401), how can wealth destroy us?

Apply: What thorns are choking out the seed of the word of God in your life? Write out a prayer of confession, asking God to break the power of these weeds and thorns.

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Day Three: “Chasing the Wind”

Read: Eccl. 5:10-15 (p. 737 in *Freedom in Christ Bible*)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, top of p. 53 to bottom of p. 57

Reflect: Do you know anyone who is satisfied with the amount of money that they earn? In your opinion, what makes them satisfied?

Dig: Make a list of all the difficulties of money that are noted in the following verses from Ecclesiastes 5.

Vs. 10:

Vs. 11:

Vs. 12:

Vs. 13:

Vs 14:

Vs. 15:

Apply: Since “giving is the only antidote to materialism,” what should you do about money to combat materialism in your life? (*The Treasure Principle*, p. 56) How could you increase your giving?

Week Four: “Roadblocks to Giving”
Day Four: “Mud Pies in the Slum”

Read: Revelation 3:17-22 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1487)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, bottom of p. 57 to bottom of p. 58

Reflect: What material possessions do you own which have proven to be of little worth and unsatisfying after you attained them?

Dig: What did the people of Laodicea think of themselves? See verse 17.

What was God’s opinion of them?

What did God tell them to do?

What would it mean for them to repent? (Hint: How would their attitude toward their supposed wealth change?)

In verse 20, is God speaking to believers (insiders) or unbelievers (outsiders)?

Apply: Since there is “something so much better than anything this world can offer—eternal treasures and exhilarating joy-” ask God for a heart which seeks his kingdom and ask him to specifically kill desires for worldly gain. (*The Treasure Principle*, p. 85)

Week Four: “Roadblocks to Giving”

Day Five: “Giving is the Only Antidote to Materialism”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of things.” Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.