
DESTRUCTIVE RICHES: YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON

Contributed by administrator
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A discussion lesson on Christ's teachings concerning the destructive power of riches wrongfully gained or used.

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A Bible Study on Economic Justice for Small Discussion Groups

A. CONTENT: READ ALOUD MATT. 6:19-24 AND LUKE 12:15-21

B. CONTENT EXPLANATION AND DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- Mammon is wealth or riches used in idolatrous ways or to subvert Divine will.
- A parable is a story used by Jesus to illustrate a moral or ethical point
- In Matthew 6 (part of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount) Jesus speaks directly to His disciples; indirectly to all people
- In Luke 12 Jesus uses a parable to teach the multitude, and by implication, all of us

C. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- In your own words, explain each of these scriptures.
- How does one "lay up treasures in heaven"? (Matt. 6:20)
- What is the connection between your treasure and your heart? (Matt. 6:21)
- Why is it that people persist in thinking that joy and meaning are found in possessions?
- What has been your experience with the power of "things" to control your life?
- What major mistakes did the rich man make in Luke 12:15-21?
- What does it mean to be "rich toward God"? (Luke 12:21)
- Are you "rich toward God"?
- Is tithing being rich toward God, or is it only a starting place? Discuss.

D. PRINCIPLES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Riches gained by fraud, used to harm others, or serving as a substitute for God are sinful.
- Christians who are "generous toward God" lay up treasure in heaven.
- Too much emphasis on worldly treasure becomes idolatry toward God.
- We must choose between God and mammon.

- Real meaning in life cannot be found through possessions.
- In the final analysis our trust must be in God.
- It is foolish to lay up treasure for ourselves while being penurious toward God.

D. REFERENCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

I Tim. 6:6-12, 17-19; James 5:1-6; Ps. 39:6; 52:7; 62:10; Prov. 10:15; 23:4; 28:20-22; 11:28; 62:10