

Stronghold: Greed

Introduction:

- What comes to mind when you think about *money*? When we take time to consider, money makes it possible for us to have the things that we need - such as food, shelter, transportation, clothing, etc. The reason we go to work every day is to add value to the world, as well as to earn money to provide these necessities for our families. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'" Money is a good thing that God has granted us with to provide for our needs. However, money makes a terrible god. Scripture continually gives us wisdom on how to handle money, as well as the dangers of either handling it poorly, or using it to fill a desire in our lives that only God can fill through His Son. Therefore, as followers of Jesus, we must guard our hearts against the dangers of greed (wanting more) and seek after lives of contentment. Some have wealth and are content, and others could have all the wealth in the world and still would lack contentment. Some have no wealth and are content, and others have no wealth but still have hearts full of greed. May the goal for us as followers of Jesus be to have hearts that do not strive after more and more in this life, but rather find contentment in Jesus, whether we have plenty, or have need. And in all of this, may we live lives of incredible generosity knowing that our true treasure will be in Heaven.

Read Your Bible

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Luke 12:13-21

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. In 1 Timothy 6:6-10, what are some of the dangers that Paul lies out for us when we have hearts full of greed?
2. In verse 9, what is the desire and what is the result?
3. In Luke 12:14, Jesus says, "...life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." What do you think Jesus is trying to help us see in this verse? Is it wrong to have possessions?
4. What appears to be the danger in Luke 12:16-19?
5. What areas of your own life do you currently find, or have found in the past, wanting to store up for yourself so that you can 'take life easy; eat, drink and be merry?'
6. Verse 21 speaks of the dangers of storing up possessions for ourselves, but the blessing of being rich towards God. In what ways can you be rich towards God?
7. What are some daily practices that could help you live a life of contentment and rich towards God?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord Jesus, we confess to you all the times in our lives we have sought contentment apart from you, and we acknowledge that at

your right hand are pleasures forever more. True contentment is found in you alone for you alone can satisfy. Please help us to live lives of unshakable contentment so that others would see Jesus in us, whether we have much, or we have little. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!