

ST MATTHEWS SMALL GROUP STUDIES:

EVERYDAY MORALITY STUDY 6:

MATERIALISM

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Warm Up

Everyday Morality: Materialism

Study

6

Write down everything you have bought / paid money for in the last month!

Bible

1. I quoted Ecclesiastes 2 in the sermon where Solomon built and got so many possessions.

What does Solomon end up commenting about money and wealth etc in Eccl. 5:10-15?

- a. What does he conclude in Eccl. 12:13?

2. List all the stories / parables etc you know Jesus spoke relating to money.

- a. Read Luke 12:13-21

- i. What does it mean 'to be on your guard'(15) – actually?
- ii. What does one's life consist of?
- iii. What is reasonable to store up, and what is just excuse to be wealthy?
- iv. What does it mean be 'rich toward God'? How do you do this?

3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19

- a. What does 'godliness with contentment' look like?
- b. What temptations do the rich fall into?
 - i. What 'evils' does money create?
 - ii. Do you often desire 'what the next level up' socially have?
- c. How are you pursuing the things in verse 11?
- d. What do you set your hope on? (17)
- e. How have you been generous lately(18)
- f. What really is the focus of life(19)?

Discussion

Discussions

- a. What is your 'most tempted' area when it comes to possessions? (clothes, gadgets, electronics, art, sporting gear, footwear, entertainment, wine, cars, houses, shares, collectables...)
 - b. Why is it so easy to fall into a mindset of materialism?
 - c. If someone else was looking at your life, what would they say you are living for?
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Prayer

- a. Have a couple of minutes of quiet - writing down what materialism you need to repent of – and repent.
- b. Pray for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa – e.g. Congo, Niger (about \$800 GDP per person)
- c. Pray for families who do not have enough for each person to eat one good meal a day
- d. Ask for a prayer about resisting materialism appropriate to you.



Eccl 5

¹⁰The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. This also is vanity.

¹¹When goods increase, those who eat them increase; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

¹²Sweet is the sleep of laborers, whether they eat little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not let them sleep.

¹³There is a grievous ill that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owners to their hurt, ¹⁴and those riches were lost in a bad venture; though they are parents of children, they have nothing in their hands. ¹⁵As they came from their mother's womb, so they shall go again, naked as they came; they shall take nothing for their toil, which they may carry away with their hands.

Eccl 12

¹³The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.

Luke 12

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

1 Tim. 6

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.