



Part 3 Discussion Guide

“Money is the Root of All Evil”

Face the Issue:

This week we finished our series “Is That in the Bible?” with a look at the saying “Money is the root of all evil”. Just like last week’s saying we discovered that the saying is not exactly in the Bible but there is Scripture that is close. Jeremy took us deeper into this scripture and helped us understand its deeper meaning. Anything that we have more love for than our relationship with God can lead to our destruction.

Why do we put other things before God? Things like money and possessions are enticing. We all like to have shiny new things. We all like to be looked upon as successful. We all like to be able to give nice things to our families. Is there anything inherently wrong with those desires? Only when they come between us and God. If we begin serving things instead of God, we’ve lost perspective. We’ve crashed and burned in our relationship with God. Fortunately He has a better plan for our lives—keeping things in their place as we serve Him.

When have you heard or seen a “love for things” expressed by someone who wasn’t a Christian? By someone who was a Christian? When have you felt this way?

Besides our faith, what factors influence our outlook on possessions?

How do our desires for things often govern the way we live?

If we truly let God shape our value systems, how would our lives change in regard to possessions?

Into the Word:

Read Matthew 6:24.

What is the key thought that pops out from this verse?

What does it mean to serve money?

How does serving money prohibit one from serving God?

Now read the follow-up to the above verse, Matthew 6:25-33.

In what ways do we worry about these things?

What do these words of Jesus say about our worries regarding money and things?

What is Jesus getting at through his comparing us to birds, flowers, and grass?

How well do we really know what we need? What is the value in our heavenly Father knowing what we need?

How can the key principle given in Matthew 6:33 change the way we look at money and possessions?

Apply The Word

From the passages we've studied and Jeremy's sermon, what would you say is God's view of earthly possessions? (Remember that Jeremy pointed out that many Godly people in Scripture had earthly possessions.)

How can money and possessions pull us away from God?

James Dobson once said, "The more things you own, the more things own you." How is that true?

We can't live in today's world without money. How do we achieve the right outlook toward it?

What is our responsibility to our families in providing the things essential for survival? For comfort? For personal enjoyment?

How can things serve us instead of our serving them?

Where does trusting God fit into this picture?

From all we've studied, how should a Christian's outlook on money and possessions be different from that of our culture?