

SCRIPTURES FOR 2/18/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Matthew 25:14-15 (The Message)

It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left.

Mark 10:21-27

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

John 19:38-39

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

Luke 10:34-35

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Acts 2:44-45

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Acts 5:1-5

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the

money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

Exodus 20:17

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Proverbs 8:17-19

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.
19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

Proverbs 23:5

Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Note to LG Leaders: All items in *italics* are FYI and not to be read aloud – Ed

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff talked about how bondage to possessions stands in the way of submission.

Q: Have you ever felt oppressed by your possessions? Talk about that...

DIG DEEPER:

Jeff talked about four misconceptions about possessions.

1. It is unspiritual to be rich. (FOR: Mk 10:21-27, 1 Tim 6:10 / AGAINST: Jn 19:38-39, Lk 10:34-35)

Q: Based on these scriptures, do you agree or disagree? Do you know any other pertinent verses?

2. All wealth should be divided equally. (FOR: Acts 2:44-45, Acts 5:1-5, AGAINST: 2 Thes 3:7-12)

Q: So is communal living just for the commies, just for the Christians, or good for no one?

3. Accumulation leads to happiness. (FOR: Pr 8:17-18, AGAINST: Pr 8:19, Pr. 23:5, Ex 20:17, Mt 6:19-21, Eccl 2:11)

Q: Does Solomon change his tune in the middle of the Proverbs 8 passage or is he trying to make a point with contrast? If the latter, what's his point?

Q: Does the fact that it is fleeting mean it can't make you happy? (2Tim2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him.)

4. Prosperity is evidence of God's favor. (FOR: Ps 37:4, AGAINST: Mt 5:3) "Poor" in the Matthew passage is from the Greek *ptochos*, which means literally poor, without means - same word used in 2 Cor 8:9.

Q: Does this mean if we follow Jesus will become rich, or does it mean just the opposite of that?

APPLICATION:

Luke 19:41-43 says, "*As (Jesus) approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes."* They thought Jesus came to give them earthly power and riches and rule, but not so. Rather, as Hebrews 13:13-14 tells us, we are to, "*go to (Jesus) outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.*" We can't take it with us, and our hope is in the eternal not the earthly, so what do we do now?

Q: What can we do right now, to lessen our addiction to stuff? (*try to live more simply*)

CONCLUSION:

1 Timothy 6:17-18 reads, "*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*"