

week 15: *special edition*

more on riches and stewardship

Dr. Ed Hartman is preaching at FPK Kosciusko on January 24. We'll come back to Luke 16 next week. To help you maintain consistency in using these study guides, here is a special edition in which we'll look at more New Testament teaching on riches and stewardship.

Scripture to Read

1 Timothy 6:1-10

Summary of the Text

Paul deals with issues of work (6:1-2) and money (6:3-10). In that culture, slavery ranged from a voluntary life of service for good pay and benefits to paying off a debt and being forced into labor without rights. In our day, the parallel would be Christian ethics for your job. Christian employees should be exemplary because they work for the Lord and not just for their bosses (see also Colossians 3:22-25). And, Christians should think about how their work reflects on the gospel message they represent among their coworkers. Christian workers who have a Christian boss are also cautioned to be extra careful in not taking advantage of their boss. Regarding money, Paul says that we must learn to be content with what we have or will be tempted to forsake our faith to worship money instead of God in an effort to get rich. While money is not good or evil, but simply a tool for good or evil, the love of money rather than God leads to a litany of evils and grief.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. – 1 Timothy 6:10

Questions for Personal Study

- While considering your job (including ones you don't get paid for, like mothering) are you convicted or encouraged by 6:1-2? Why?

- What can you do to be a better worker at your job?
- According to Paul, how are false teachers often motivated by a love of money and not a love of God?
- What does it mean to love money?
- What kinds of sin have you seen a love of money cause?

Questions for Group Discussion

- After reading 6:1-2, how do you rate yourself at doing your work?
- How have you seen your work reflect upon other people's view of Jesus?
- How content are you with your income and possessions?
- Are you able to sincerely enjoy the simple things in life, like food to eat and clothes to wear?
- What kinds of evil have you experienced or seen occur from people who make money their god?
- Why is money an unsatisfying god that eventually causes grief?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that part of being a Christian is to be a good worker. Make sure your children have chores, and that they understand why it is good to learn to work hard and do a good job. [For some chores you should consider paying your children so that they learn how to earn and manage money, while some chores should simply be done because they are members of the family.]

Tuesday: Explain contentment to your children in such a way that they are thankful for what they have. Make sure they understand that to be content means: to be happy (and not jealous) when another child gets something, not always whining for new things, and not asking for everything in the store when they go shopping with you. It will be very important for you to explain how advertising works, and that it is designed to make them feel discontent.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Teach your children that when we leave the earth we won't take any of our stuff to Heaven. So, while we should enjoy the stuff we have in this life, we should be more concerned with growing in godliness, which we will take to Heaven with us. Explain what a blessing it is to have simple things like food and clothes, and how many people don't have even those things. Make sure that your family spends some time together in prayer thanking God for what you have.

Friday: Explain to your children that we are to appreciate money but not love it like we do God. Teach them that if they love money and things too much, they will commit all sorts of sins. Teach them about such sins as coveting (wanting what other people have), stealing (taking what is not yours), jealousy (not being happy for other people who have nice things), and fighting (arguing over things that we don't want to share with people).

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough. Pray that Ed Hartman and Phillip would have boldness in preaching the Word of God tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their Sunday School teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.