

“Greed”

In this session let’s consider one of the greatest enemies of our heart ... GREED. The central principle we’ll focus on is this ...

REALLOCATING ASSETS RELOCATES YOUR HEART

It’s almost impossible to see in our own lives. In fact, it can be couched in terms of being a good steward, *I’m a Saver*.

With the hope of winning a record jackpot of \$640 million, Americans spent an estimated \$1.5 billion on tickets in a multistate lottery in early 2012. The odds of winning were a staggering 1 in 176 million, but people stood in lines at grocery stores, gas stations, and cafes to buy a chance to become rich.

Something inside us makes us think more money will solve our problems and improve our lives. **Greed is ...**

THE ASSUMPTION THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE IS FOR MY CONSUMPTION.

Greed is really not a financial issue. It’s a heart issue at the core. You may not be able to see it but others see it in your life. Look at Jesus’ warning ...

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

There is a kind of greed where your life equals the acquisition, hoarding and storing up of possessions. We fall prey to the idea that life equals more and more and more stuff. We are consumed by the idea that upgrading to the next bigger and better is where it’s at. (ENUF) This impacts people around you because they feel like stuff is more important to you than they are. God calls this – GREED! And it’s not a financial problem.

How different are our attitudes when it comes to matters of spending versus giving? Jesus teaches us how to get our hearts in shape as it relates to the matter of generosity & greed ...

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy,
and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

This isn’t saying it’s wrong to save for college or a “rainy day”. He’s not saying we need to liquidate everything and live homeless on the streets. Later He will advocate for responsible living. He’s addressing those of us who are hoarders and are consumed by acquisition.

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven is code for ... give stuff away ... liquidate ... reallocate some of your possessions to others ...

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“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12:33-34 (NIV)

What Jesus is saying is this: *“If you want to know where your heart is then follow the money trail. Look through your bank account and see where your heart really is.”*

Where is your heart today? It’s wherever your treasure is. If it’s in a boat or a house or your business or your clothes or your children or your family or your career, wherever your treasure is, that’s where your heart is. You see, every time I give to God, it moves me a little bit closer to Him. It not only makes me like Him, because God is a giver, it moves me closer to Him. It draws me closer because that’s where my treasure is.

THE WAY YOU STRIP YOUR HEART OF GREED IS TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEM IN THE AREA OF GENEROSITY.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are **GOOD**, your whole body will be full of light.

²³ But if your eyes are **BAD**, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money.”

Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV)

Jesus is using a word play ... just as your eyes direct your body, you have the potential to use your treasure to direct your heart. Because your heart follows your treasure. Your heart doesn’t just have to be an indicator of where you are. It can also be an indication of where you’re going to be!

Good: it’s the only time in the N.T. this Greek word appears. Outside Biblical literature it’s translated as “generous”. Essentially He’s saying, *“If your eyes are generous then your whole body will be full of light.”*

Then He refers to **“bad”** eyes and it’s the same word He uses in Matthew 20:15 (parable of the workers in the vineyard) where it’s translated as “envious.” **Are you (your eyes) generous or envious?**

“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?

Or are you **envious** because I am generous?”

Matthew 20:15 (NIV)

THE WAY YOU BREAK THE POWER OF GREED IS THROUGH PRIORITIZED, PERCENTAGE, PROGRESSIVE GIVING.

Before I fund my kingdom, I fund His kingdom! As my income increases, my % increases.

Let’s Pray!

Resource: [Enemies of the Heart](#) by Andy Stanley