

Small Group questions.

For the week of Oct. 30, 2022

Prepare for your Group discussion by taking some time (about 20-30 minutes) to go through the following Growth Group Questions and be ready to share your thoughts and answers with your group. Have a great time growing in your relationship with the Lord and with others!

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. Our hearts can be easily deceived by the desire for money. How have you seen that to be true in your life? Read 1 Timothy 6:8-10 and consider how the desire for money and the "stuff" that money buys has pulled your heart away from what it truly desires – more of God?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18, 1 Chronicles 29:14-17, and Hebrews 2:10a. Describe how hard it is to live as though everything you have, comes from God and belongs to Him.
4. Read Proverbs 30:8-9. How do you think a different financial situation would affect your relationship with Jesus? Be honest with yourself!
5. Where do you try to draw the line between enjoying what God gives you and living a life of self-indulgence?
6. In the sermon, we heard about the freedom to be "spontaneously generous" with our money. How much do you feel that freedom? Why do you think that is?
7. Can you think of a story in which God gave you the resources to bless someone in a cool, unusual or even miraculous way?
8. What are some specific ways God might be calling you into a greater freedom with your money – to honor Him more with your money?

Grace Norwalk. - James Pt. 17. 5:1-6

"What does your resources say about you?" Pastor Oscar Chávez

How do you handle the resources God has entrusted in your hands?

James 5:1-6

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.

² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 3:11-14; Luke 19:8; Luke 16:13

- **What exactly is GREED?**

Greed is the desire to have more of something, is having or showing a selfish desire for wealth and possessions

Greed is rightly called a deadly sin because it kills the possibility of a proper human relation to the Creator.

James Tells us three things that Greed leads you to

I. Greed leads to m. V. 1-3

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.

"Weep," klausate = "to sob out loud," it's not a silent crying.

It means "to weep in a lamenting way."

As a result of trusting money and material possessions and not in GOD

² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded.

They were depending on material possessions and money as if life depended on them

II. Greed leads to S and m of others. V.4

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Prov. 22:22-23

²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,

²³ for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

¹⁴ Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. ¹⁵ Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

III. Greed leads to S. V.5-6

⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

Prov. 11:4

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

Luke 12.

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.'¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 16:13-15

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.

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IV. The s to Greed

- Matt.6:19-21
¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **1. It is more of a blessing to give than to receive.**
Acts 20:35
³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
- **2. Matt. 22. Love your neighbor as yourself.**

How to checklist:

Have an attitude of gratitude; focus on what you have, not on what you don't have.

- 1 Become immersed in the scriptures.
- 2 Realize that material blessings will not bring peace in this life or joy in the eternal life.
- 3 Develop charity; be willing to give, share.

Consider:

- "God, who do you want me to bless that is in real need right now"?
- There are children in other countries that by receiving a sandwich or a slice of pizza you light up their face.... (Nicaragua, Mexico, Thailand...). Sponsor some of these kids with bibles, uniforms for school, maybe a meal for Christmas...
- Have in your budget a set amount every month to support this kind of missions...
- About reaching the lost...

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Greed destroys us little by little.

lay up treasure as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life, in heaven!!!!

**But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."
"for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

SUMMER SERMON SERIES 2022

JAMES

FAITH ⊕ ACTION

“What does your resources say about you?” 5:1-6

GRACE NORWALK

Test of faith:

Chap. 1

- Trials – Temptations - Doers of the word

Chap. 2

- How you treat others.

Chap. 3

- Your words - What kind of wisdom do you live your life with?

Chapter 4

- Selfishness V.1-10 - repent and be humble...
- The way you talk about others V.11-12.
- Is God in your everyday plans? V.13- 17.

Do you possess what you profess?

James 5:1-6

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Matthew 6:19-21,

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth –“and **rust** destroy and where thieves break in and steal; But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust **destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. for where your treasure is “there your heart will be also.”**

Luke 3,

11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.”

Luke 19:8,

“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated any- body out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount”

v. 9. Jesus responded, “Today salvation has come to this house”

Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters: either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

James 5:1-3

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I. Greed leads to *misery*. V. 1-3

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- “Weep,” *klausate* = “to sob out loud,” it’s not a silent crying.
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Luke 12:13-14.

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

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1 Tim. 6

8 *But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

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II. Greed leads to Selfishness and mistreatment of others. V.4

- *⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.*
- *⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.*
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III. Greed leads to *Self deceiving*. V.5-6

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• IV. The solution to Greed

Matt.6:19-21

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- ***Greed destroys us little by little.***
- *lay up treasure as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life, in heaven!!!!*
- **But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust *destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.***
 - **“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

- What Greed will do to you:

I. Greed leads to *misery*. V. 1-3

II. Greed leads to *Selfishness* and *mistreatment* of others. V.4

III. Greed leads to *Self-deceiving*. V.5-6

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