

TREASURE

- \$TUFFED -



DAY 1

An estimated 80% of all divorces stem from money issues. In almost every study, money ranks as one of the most disputed topics for married couples, regardless of how much or little the couple has. One out of every seven verses in the book of Luke is about the topic of money and/or greed.

READ Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:15. Jesus issues us a double warning to be on guard against all kinds of greed. *Who, me?*

In his book Counterfeit Gods, Timothy Keller notes that everyone tends to live in a particular socioeconomic bracket. You don't compare yourself to the rest of the world, you compare yourself to those in your bracket. The human heart always wants to justify itself and this is one of the easiest ways. Few of us consider ourselves greedy or enamored by wealth. The last place we expect to see it is in our own mirror. Living in the American culture which spends billions of dollars advertising millions of products we 'must have NOW' can easily skew the perspective of even the most pragmatic among us. It's a reality that could easily be a problem for each one of us.

TAKE time today to come before God with an open mind and open heart. ASK God to remove any blind spots you may have surrounding money, wealth, stuff, greed, or perhaps what you treasure.

DAY 2

READ these myths about wealth from this weekend's message.

- Wealth will make me secure. *1 Timothy 6:17*
- Wealth will make me happy. *Hebrews 13:5-6*
- Wealth will make me important. *James 1:9-10*
- Wealth will make me powerful. *James 1:10-11*

We know these to be FALSE, *but which ones FEEL true? Which do you read over and think, "Well yeah, but..." Which are the most difficult for you NOT to believe? Why?* READ through the scriptures associated with each myth. REPLACE the word 'wealth' in each of the myths with the word 'God'. PRAY that the reworded phrases become truths in your life.

DAY 3

READ the last three myths about wealth and LOOK up the scriptures.

- Wealth is an indication of God's pleasure. *Jeremiah 12:1*
- Wealth is evil. *Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:10*
- Wealth won't lead me away from God. *1 Timothy 6:9-10*

Which ones do you have a hard time accepting as FALSE? For which ones do you make exceptions in your mind? What do these scriptures actually say

about wealth? What pressure do you feel from yourself, others, or culture, to seek wealth, to get more stuff, or live beyond your means?

READ Proverbs 23:4-5.

DAY 4

READ Luke 12:13-21. *Do you believe the statement Jesus makes in verse 15?*

CONSIDER the following questions:

- *How many catalogs have you received in the mail lately?*
- *How much time and effort do you spend on Craigslist or ebay?*
- *How many things in those catalogs and online would you like to own?*
- *Do you buy things just because they're such a good deal?*
- *How many items do you usually buy when you're "window shopping" at the mall?*
- *Do you NEED what you buy or do you simply WANT it?*
- *Do you have more stuff than you have space in which to store it?*
- *Does buying new clothes, gadgets, etc. make you feel better? Give you a thrill? For how long?*
- *Is the stuff you have [or wish you had] a source of anxiety, fear, jealousy or pride? Is the fear of losing your stuff affecting relationships?*
- *Do you find yourself judging people who have more or less than you?*
- *Do you use cash or a credit card? Are your credit cards maxed out?*
- *On what do you tend to spend too much money and actually have to use self-control NOT to overspend?*

Our money flows most effortlessly toward our treasure. *What do you treasure?*

MAKE time to journal today. TAKE a personal inventory of the grip that materialism may have on your inner life. Jesus said we should be on guard against all kinds of greed and that life does not consist of the abundance of things. PRAY for that truth to take root in our hearts.

DAY 5

READ Luke 12:13-21 again.

In reading this story, do you agree that this person was a fool? Do you think he was an admirable business man who achieved great success? If put in a similar situation, how would you act? Would you build bigger barns? What was the purpose and goal behind this? When you think of storing up something, what comes to mind? Money, possessions, power, prestige?

READ verse 21. *What do you think it means to be "rich toward God"?*

LOOK back at the questions from Day 4. *Which of these will make you rich toward God? What kinds of things will make you rich toward God?*

COMMIT to invest your thoughts, time, money, or focus this week toward something that is eternal and makes you rich toward God.