

discussion guide for July 1st

“Grappling With the Grip of Greed”

Mt. 6:19-24 (p. 1256-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground**
with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

How can you know when you're gripped by greed? You may be familiar with Jeff Foxworthy's "You might be a redneck" routine. Put your heads together and come up with two or three, "You might be a greedy person" one-liners. Here's one to get you started:

- *If you've ever fumbled your wallet until your friend said, "I've got it," you might be gripped by greed!*

*"DSB"=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Greedy is such a destructive threat for those who want to find and follow Christ that Jesus attacks it 3 times in Mt. 6:19-24. Three destructive dangers of greed's grip are:

1. Greedy Disrupts Your Desire for God's Heaven

- Read Mt. 6:19-21, (p. 1256-DSB*). What is the "don't" in vs. 19? What is the "do" in verse 20? What is the life principle in vs. 21? Define "heart" and "treasure."
- What are some signs that the focus of your "treasure" and therefore your "heart" is being disrupted by greed?
- Read Heb. 10:32-35, (p. 1621-DSB*) Why is it important to make sure you stay focused on eternal things?

2. Greedy Distorts Your Perspective of God's Word

- Read Mt. 6:22-23, (p. 1256 – DSB*) Eye-yi-Yie! What's all this talk about eyes? How do bad eyes relate to greed? (HINT: Bad eyes obstruct light and reduce or block clear vision. How does greed block clear insight of God's truth?)
- Read Lk. 12:15-21, (p. 1361 – DSB*) How was this man's "vision" clouded concerning the essence of life?

3. Greedy Displaces Your Loyalty to God's Agenda

- Read Mt. 6:24, (p. 1256 – DSB*) What two masters are suggested? Why is "money" personalized?
- Are people with money more or less likely to be greedy? Why? Why not?
- Are people with no money less susceptible to greed's problems? Why not?
- Does the amount of money a person has have anything to do with greed, or is it the amount of person the money has? Explain.
- Is money the root of evil? Why? Why not?
- What does it mean to "serve" money?
- How can someone on God's agenda use money?

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Maybe your “greed” index is low, or maybe its high. Either way, God wants your complete focus on eternal treasure, your total insight into His truth, and your dedication to His agenda. Anything less yields less of life than the abundant life Jesus promised His follower.

Even a little greed is destructive as you follow Jesus. Only you can answer, “How greedy have I been lately?”

The good news is, the effects of greed can be reversed! Just like Scrooge after he woke from his dreams, God can refocus your thinking, clear your vision, and deepen your commitment to His agenda.

Greed – Be Done With It!

I will commit to:

- Place my focus on God’s eternal treasure.
- Clear my vision for God’s truth.
- Align my life with God’s priorities and agenda.

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Prayer needs of people outside the group.
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- Prayer needs of members in the group.
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- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving _____ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the “Savor” section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving a daily e-mail, Sign up for “The Daily Cup” e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

You took a hard look at greed last Sunday. Perhaps you made a commitment to be done with it! These passages and questions will help reinforce that commitment and encourage you to continue.

Monday, July 2: Read Deuteronomy 28:9-14, (p. 247-DSB*). The conditions for God’s blessings are “ifs” in this passage. What are they? Vs. 14 warns against following other gods. What did we learn about money last Sunday? This passage deals with an entire nation. What is the real strength of any nation?

Tuesday, July 3: Read Proverbs 11:24-28, (p. 809-DSB*) Greed promises more but the true yield is what? How can a man gain prosperity, good will, and vitality in life? Does this apply in business? Family life? Friendships?

Wednesday, July 4: Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-22, (p. 532-DSB*). What is the pathway to the life God wants to give to those who follow Him? What are the detours that bring about the destruction of God’s life for us? As you think about our nation today, which path are we following? Which path are you on?

Thursday, July 5: Read Joshua 1:8, (p. 261-DSB*) Remember greed distorts your perspective of God’s Word. What did God command Joshua to do? What did he promise would be the result? What does God want you to do? How can you achieve God’s success in life?

Friday, July 6: Read Mark 10:29-30, (p. 1318-DSB*). What happens to someone who completely sells out to God’s agenda? Has this been your experience? If not, why not? How do your life priorities need to change?

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