

GREED

Mark 10:17-25 & Isaiah 58:7-10

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you define greed? Do you think you struggle with it? Why or why not?
- What consequences of greed have you observed in your own life or in the life of someone close to you?

Greed might seem like the easiest of the Seven Deadly Sins to identify -- just look for the person who can't seem to get enough money or stuff. But is that all there is to greed? If so, would poverty or perpetual self-denial be the only options to avoid the sin of greed? Or, is there something deeper that makes the attitude of greed a threat to us all whether or not we have money or lots of stuff? Join us in studying scripture to discover the multiple facets of this subtle and dangerous sin and to find help in turning our minds and hearts to Christ for spiritual healing.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How has your opinion about another person's relationship with money or possessions affected your opinion about their worth or value to your community? Is it an accurate reflection of their value in God's eyes?
- How can our desire for security lead us to fall victim to greed? In what other areas of life might the attitude of greed lead you to trust in created things rather than the Creator?
- James Ogilvy once wrote, "Greed turns love into lust, leisure into sloth, hunger into gluttony, honor into pride, righteous indignation into anger, and admiration into envy. If it weren't for greed, we would suffer fewer of the other vices."* Where in your life has the attitude of greed taken something good and turned it into a vice?
- Which ideas discussed in segment 3 seem practical to you for counteracting greed (e.g. finding joy in acts of generosity, rejecting the consumer culture, rejoicing in what you have)? Are there specific areas (money or otherwise) where you need to begin cultivating your spiritual health to work against an attitude of greed?

*James Ogilvy, "Greed" in *Wicked Pleasures: Meditations on the Seven "Deadly" Sins*, ed. Robert C. Solomon (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1999).

Related Passages

- **Matthew 6:19-24**
- **1 Chronicles 29:14-16**
- **Philippians 2:1-11**

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-15**
- **Matthew 19:16-30**
Matthew's version of the story of the rich young ruler
- **Luke 18:18-30**
Luke's version of the story of the rich young ruler

Conclusion

In Luke 12:15 Jesus warns, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Pray for God's grace and mercy for the times you've fallen victim to greed, and request his strength and help to follow Jesus' warning.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/greed>

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