

## **Dirty Jobs – Sermon #11**

### **Escaping Materialism**

**Proverbs 27:20, Luke 12:13-21 and Selected Scriptures**  
**08/18,19/07**

SCRIPTURE – **Proverbs 27:20** *"Human desires are like the world of the dead. There is always room for more."*

#### **1. WHY DO I ALWAYS WANT MORE?**

- Three critical questions:
  1. What motivates me to always keep spending myself into debt?
  2. What motivates me to never be satisfied with what I have?
  3. What motivates me to keep wanting more and more?
- I wrongly believe that having more things will make me happier.
  1. Things can bring temporary happiness.
  2. Trying to find happiness in things is like drinking saltwater to quench your thirst. (**Ecclesiastes 5:10-11**)

SCRIPTURE – *"He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness! The more you have, the more you spend."*

- I wrongly believe that having more things will make me more important.
  1. We wrongly believe that our valuables determine our value.
  2. Don't confuse your net worth with your self worth. (**Luke 12:15**)

SCRIPTURE – *"Be on your guard against greed in any shape or form. For a man's real life in no way depends on the number of his possessions."*

- I wrongly believe that having more things will make me more secure.
  1. The more you have, the more insecure you can be because the more you have to worry about.
  2. The more you have the more time and energy it takes to maintain it.

SCRIPTURE – **Proverbs 18:11** *"The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer!"*

SCRIPTURE – **Proverbs 23:4** *"Be wise enough not to wear yourself out trying to get rich. Your money can be gone in a flash."*

- Real security can only be found in something that can't be taken away from you.

SCRIPTURE – **Job 31:24,28** *"If I put my trust in money, if my happiness depends on wealth it would mean that I have denied the God of heaven."*

#### **2. RECOGNIZING MATERIALISM IN YOUR LIFE. (LUKE 12:19,20)**

- When a materialist is blessed materially they see themselves.

SCRIPTURE – *"My goods" - "my fruits" - "my barns..."*

1. Materialism blinds us to God's goodness and provisions.

2. The material blessings of life are either a mirror in which we see ourselves – or a window through which we see God.

- When a materialist is blessed materially they think of enjoyment. (**Luke 12:19,20**)

SCRIPTURE – *"...take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry. "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?'"*

1. Materialism causes us to see material blessings as a personal benefit.
2. God wants you to see material blessings as a spiritual investment opportunity.

SCRIPTURE – **Luke 12:33** when he says - *"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."*

#### **3. HOW TO ESCAPE MATERIALISM IN A CONSUMER DRIVEN CULTURE.**

- Resist comparing what you have to others. (**2 Corinthians 10:12**)

SCRIPTURE – *"We do not dare classify or compare ourselves it is not wise."*

1. Comparing inevitably leads to coveting.
2. Comparing causes you to get possessed by your possessions. (**1 Timothy 6:9**)

SCRIPTURE – *"When we long to be rich, we're a prey to temptation. We get trapped into all sorts of foolish and dangerous ambitions which eventually plunge us into ruin."*

- Rejoice in what you do have. (**Ecclesiastes 6:9**)

SCRIPTURE – *"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else."*

1. Is the desire to acquire out of control in your life?
2. Is it hard to be content with what you have? (**Hebrews 13:5**)

SCRIPTURE – *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."*

- Return the first ten percent back to God of all of your increase.

1. That's called tithing. (**Deuteronomy 14:23**)

SCRIPTURE – *"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first."*

2. The purpose for tithing is to teach me to break the grip of materialism – to put God first.
3. Giving is God's antidote to materialism in your life. (**1 Timothy 6:17-19**)

SCRIPTURE – *"Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money which will soon be gone. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should give happily to those in need always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this, they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven. It is the only safe investment for eternity."*

- Refocus your life on permanent values. (**Colossians 3:2**)

SCRIPTURE – *"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things."*

1. Realize that all possessions are temporary – focus your life on what's going to last forever. **(Matthew 13:22)**

SCRIPTURE – *"The man who hears the message, but allows the cares of this world and his longing for money choke out God's word, does less and less for God."*

2. Most of the things that are really important have nothing to do with money.
3. Jesus makes it clear that money is to be used, not served. **(Matthew 6:24)**

SCRIPTURE – *"No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money."*