**FOOTHOLDS #5**

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**THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES: MATERIALISM AND GREED**

Call Study – Jason Park

 “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.” **Ecc. 5:10**

**23**King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. **24**The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. **25**Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules. **1 Kings 10:23-25**

1King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. **2**They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. **3**He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. **4**As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. **1 Kings 11:1-4**

#### **PROSPERITY CAN DISTRACT US FROM GOD**

**4**As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. **1 Kings 11:4**

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. **Matt. 6:24**

**APPLICATION:** SUCCESS **BECOMES AN IDOL = GOD IS REPLACED**

#### **MORE STUFF DOES NOT = MORE SATISFACTION**

#### Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. **Ecc. 2:11**

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?  **Mk 8:36**

**APPLICATION:** GREED PROMISES JOY = **EMPTINESS**

#### **MATERIALISM LEADS TO COMPROMISE**

**5**He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. **6**So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done. **1 Kings 11:5-6**

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. **Prov. 23:4**

**APPLICATION:** THE PURSUIT OF WEALTH **=** **COMPROMISE.**

#### **TRUE SUCCESS COMES FROM OBEDIENCE, NOT RICHES**

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. **Ecc. 12:13**

**33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. **Matt. 6:33-34**

**APPLICATION:** **WHEN WE PRIORITIZE GOD = HE PROVIDES**

### ****SYMPTOMS OF MATERIALISM AND GREED****

### **(Discuss the following as a group)**

**ARE YOU SATISFIED? YES NO**
Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless **Ecc. 5:10 (NIV)**

**DO YOU PRIORITIZE WEALTH OVER RELATIONSHIPS? YES NO**
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. **Matt. 6:24**

**DO YOU HOARD YOUR WEALTH INSTEAD OF SHARE? YES NO**
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. **Luke 12:15**

**DO YOU FIND SECURITY IN YOUR WEALTH INSTEAD OF GOD? YES NO**

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. **Prov. 11:28**

**DO YOU FOCUS MORE ON MATERIAL GAIN THAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH? YES NO**

But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **Mark 4:19**

**CURE FOR MATERIALISM AND GREED**

**CULTIVATE GENEROSITY**
Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **1 Tim. 6:18**

**FIND CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST**
I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **Phil. 4:11**

**STORE UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN**
Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **Matt 6:19**

What else?

How can we pray for you?

 **2025 READING PLAN**

New Testament/Psalms/Proverbs

 