Five Lies That Destroy Lives Episode 4

“The Myth of Materialism”

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Jesus said in John 8:32, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**1. The Lie: BETTER THINGS will make THINGS BETTER.**

The Myth of Materialism says, "My significance and value is measured by the quality and quantity of the things I possess. Possessions provide security and power, so I can be safe, personally satisfied, and rule my world."

Warning! Misused Wealth Brings God’s Judgment!

James 5:1: “Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.”

The Wrong Uses of Wealth

#1. Don’t HOARD Wealth!

James 5:2-3 "Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days."

#2. Don’t STEAL Wealth!

James 5:4 “Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.”

#3. Don’t ABUSE Wealth!

James 5:5-6 “You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.”

**2. The Truth: The WEALTH of my values is more important than the value of my WEALTH.**

The Right Uses of Wealth

#1. EARN it honestly!

Proverbs 14:23 “Work brings profit; talk brings poverty!”

Ephesians 4:28 “Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.”

#2. SAVE it faithfully!

Proverbs 21:20 “The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.”

#3. GIVE it generously!

1 Timothy 6:17-18 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

**3. The Solution: Overcome GREED through GENEROUS GIVING.**

Proverbs 11:24-25 "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Acts 20:35 “It is more blessed to give than to receive”

Study Questions

* The Myth of Materialism says, *"My significance and value is measured by the quality and quantity of the things I possess. Possessions provide security and power, so I can be safe, personally satisfied, and rule my world."* How is this week's "Lie” sold to us daily? What are some general evidences that most of us buy much of “The Lie?”
* Marriage counselors have discovered that financial matters are a leading cause of divorce and tension in marriages. Why is money such a stressful topic in our relationships? What does money reveal about our inner attitudes and values? How will putting our finances in order ultimately put our relationships in order also?
* What specific step do you need to take to get your finances and/or attitudes about them aligned with God’s Word?
* Read Proverbs 22:26–27. According to this verse, what is the problem with debt?
* In practical terms, most of us will have to take on some debt in our lifetime. How can we determine what is a legitimate debt and what has put us in the danger zone?
* In what ways is money a master over you? How can that change?
* Read Ecclesiastes 5:10–15. According to this passage, what is the problem with loving money (v. 10)? What are some of the dangers for someone overly ambitious to gain riches?
* The temptation is to believe that what’s in our wallet has the power to solve our problems. What kinds of problems do you believe more money would solve for you? Read Proverbs 30:8. How can we adopt this attitude toward money?
* Where should our real riches lie according to Colossians 1:9–13? How can we learn to be thankful for such abundant heavenly riches?
* In what ways does the love of money circumvent our contentment? What is the most difficult aspect of your life to be content with? How can we resist our consumer culture and learn to be content with what we have?
* Read Proverbs 11:24; 13:6–16; 17:16; 22:26–27. Why should we transfer ownership of everything to God?
* Why is it futile to think we earned or deserved our possessions, according to Deuteronomy 8:18? Who gave us the ability to earn money?
* According to Proverbs 11:24, giving things away does not necessarily make us poor. Why is that true?
* Why is our attitude so important in our giving (2 Corinthians 9:7)?
* Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19. What do you think is Paul’s main message to the wealthy in this passage?
* How might this passage apply to all of us? How should we use our money while we still have it? What do you think it means to be rich in good deeds? What does verse 19 mean?

**Action Point:** List all your expenses for a month. Prayerfully seek God as to what He’d have you change about any of them. Does He want you to give more? Save more? Reduce debt? Ask Him.