

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 23

Greed vs Generosity

Greed vs Generosity

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach the students the dangers of envy and greed using the story of Gehazi as an illustration and to show the blessing and reward of generosity.

Key Verses

Proverbs 1:19
Proverbs 14:30
Proverbs 21:6
Proverbs 24:5
2 Kings 5:20-27

Memory Verse - 1 Timothy 6:10

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 19:11.

Take a moment to think about the billboards on the highway, the commercials on TV, the previews in movies, ads in the newspaper and mail, and the window displays in front of stores. What do each one of these things have in common?

They are all trying to get us to imagine how much better our lives would be with all the newest stuff, and how terrible our lives will be without it. They attempt to stir up discontentment and envy, which is sin. But is it wrong to want things?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Proverbs describes envy as a harmful disease rotting away our bones (14:30), taking away the life of its owners (1:19). It causes people to do any number of sinful things to get what they want, promising that having more will make you happy. But it only brings punishment (28:20) and leads to being pierced through with many sorrows and, ultimately, destruction (1 Timothy 6:10).

Greed was Gehazi's downfall (2 Kings 5:20-27). Naaman, a Syrian commander, had come to Elisha seeking healing for his leprosy, and God miraculously healed him! Naaman tried to give a wealthy gift to Elisha as thanks, but Elisha refused. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, saw this as a missed opportunity and ran after Naaman. He lied to Naaman about why he needed some of the riches that had been refused, and when he returned home, he lied to Elisha about where he had been. God punished him with leprosy, and Gehazi's greed and lies led to his destruction.

The wise take heed to this warning and do not let their hearts envy sinners, but are zealous for the LORD, knowing their eternal, unfading hope in heaven (23:17-18). They love the LORD and people, not money or things, so they are willing to be generous and faithful with what they have, which in turn the LORD rewards with abundant blessings and riches (11:25; 28:20). The irony in all of this is that there are those who make themselves rich, yet have nothing; And those who make themselves poor, yet have great riches (13:7).

LOOK

Like many sins, envy starts small. Your friend gets a new toy for their birthday and you want one for yourself; you see a commercial on TV about a new video game system you wish you could get; you hear about someone winning millions in the lottery and dream about what your life would be like if it was you. These little desires and dreams may seem innocent, but they start us down a road of folly, and Proverbs warns us that these desires might be evidence of envy in our hearts, which is sin.

Envy is a liar. It tells you to think, "If only I had _____, then I would be happy." This turns our eyes off of everyone except ourselves. It turns our eyes off of God and all that He has blessed us with, which causes us to stop giving Him thanks, and it turns our eyes off our neighbors in need, keeping us from being helpful and generous. What envy doesn't tell you is that more will always equal less when envy is involved. Unless riches come from hard work and God's blessing, they lead to punishment, brokenness, sorrow, and destruction, as we saw with Gehazi.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

So those who greedily want more end up with nothing, and those who selflessly give and are generous are made rich. If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we will never be content to get just one more thing, because we already have (every Christmas, every birthday, etc.) and are not content. This is because “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). Our life and hope is in a generous God, who daily loads us with benefits and gave us the gift of His Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. When we remain thankful and content, whether rich or poor, we show that world that God is enough and has given us all we need in Christ Jesus.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 1 Timothy 6:10.

Pray: Ask God to protect your heart against envy and to help you find ways to be generous to others. Thank Him for all He has given to us, and ask Him to continue to show you all that you have to be thankful for.

Parent Question: What is envy and why is it dangerous?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Select Proverbs by David Guzik

[Proverbs 11:25](#)

**The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.**

a. **The generous soul will be made rich:** God has promised to bless the **generous soul** and will do so with riches in this world, the next, or both.

i. **The generous soul:** “Heb. *the soul of blessing*; that man who is a blessing to others, who blesseth them, i.e. doeth good to them, as blessing is oft used for a gift, as [Genesis 33:11](#); [1 Samuel 25:27](#); [2 Corinthians 9:5](#).” (Poole)

ii. **Rich** is literally *fat*, and so translated in the King James Version (*The liberal soul will be made fat*). “Especially in countries where people have little to eat, the metaphor ‘to be fattened’ connotes wealth, abundance, full satisfaction, and health (cf. [Deuteronomy 31:20](#)).” (Waltke)

b. **He who waters will also be watered himself:** When we give, God knows how to give unto us. We can’t water others without being **watered** ourselves. We are never the loser for our God-guided generosity. Jesus told us that *it is more blessed to give than to receive* ([Acts 20:35](#)).

i. “If I want to get water I must give water. Though that seems a strange way of self-serving I pray you try it.” (Spurgeon)

[Proverbs 14:30](#)

**A sound heart is life to the body,
But envy is rottenness to the bones.**

a. **A sound heart is life to the body:** If **heart** here meant the physical organ that beats in the chest, any medical doctor would agree. Yet Solomon had in mind **heart** as a metaphor for our innermost being. When we are **sound** on the inside, it brings health and **life** to the whole **body**.

b. **Envy is rottenness to the bones:** The presence of **envy** is presented as a contrast to **a sound heart**. **Envy** corrupts us from within and can poison many otherwise good things.

i. “The proverb teaches that to nurse a resentment is bad for body as well as soul: it is no sacrifice when we renounce it.” (Kidner)

[Proverbs 21:6](#)

**Getting treasures by a lying tongue
Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.**

a. **Getting treasures by a lying tongue:** There are some who hope to talk their way into money, and to do it

with a **lying tongue**. They plan deals and make promises that aren't honest, hoping it can bring them **treasures**.

i. **Treasures by a lying tongue**: "As do seducers, sycophants, flatterers, corrupt judges, that say with shame, 'Give ye'; mercenary pleaders, that sell both their tongues and silence, and help their clients' causes." (Trapp)

b. **Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death**: The hope of great treasure through **lying** words is a dream of those who are on the path to destruction. They hope to find great **treasures** with little work, and put their trust in **fleeting fantasy** instead of in God.

i. "The point of the verse, then, is that ill-gotten gain is a fleeting pleasure and a crime for which punishment is prepared." (Ross)

ii. **Those who seek death**: "Instead of procuring the fortune and life they hoped for, deceivers find that they were actually seeking death and so lose everything." (Waltke)

[Proverbs 21:26](#)

**He covets greedily all day long,
But the righteous gives and does not spare.**

a. **He covets greedily all day long**: The reference is likely to the lazy man of the previous proverb. With his desire, that lazy man **covets greedily** and he does it **all day long**—yet the desire is unfulfilled because he does not *work* towards it.

b. **The righteous gives and does not spare**: The lazy man experiences constant disappointment, but the **righteous** man—who, by implication, works hard—he has so much that he **gives and does not spare**. He is so blessed that he has enough for himself and to give generously.

**A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.**

a. **A faithful man will abound with blessings**: This is true as a general principle; faithfulness and obedience to God's law brings **blessings**. It was especially true under the old covenant, where God promised blessings on the obedient and curses on the disobedient ([Deuteronomy 27-28](#)).

i. **The faithful man will abound**: "The man who makes fidelity the master principle will be rewarded. He who makes accumulation of wealth the master passion will be punished." (Morgan)

b. **He who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished**: The one who **hastens to be rich** is almost always willing to cheat or compromise to gain wealth. God promises that this one will be punished, either in this life or the next.

i. **He who hastens to be rich**: "While not condemning possessions in themselves, Proverbs always rejects greed. It contrasts financial prudence, diligence, and generosity with the desire for quick and easy money." (Garrett)

ii. "Even if no criminal means are resorted to, yet the immoderate desire, the perseverance in every track of Mammon, the laboring night and day for the grand object, and the delight and confidence in the acquisition all prove the idolatrous heart and will not go unpunished." (Bridges)