



FIVE LIES THAT RUIN
RELATIONSHIPS

WRONG BELIEFS PRODUCE WRONG BEHAVIOR

CHIP INGRAM

SESSION 7: WHY BETTER THINGS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE THINGS BETTER

JAMES 5:1-6

You probably think you are one ticket away from happiness.

No, you wouldn't admit that in professional circles, and certainly not in church pews. But deep down, you, like everyone else, secretly want it. And there in the dusty, dark corners of your heart, you would love to see if it fills the void. You buy your pack of gum at the gas station and wonder, "Just one two dollar lotto ticket...who knows?"

After all, you could give more away. You would definitely tithe your winnings – and that would make your pastor happy. Your parents always fought about money, and now you find yourself going down the same roads. You know money doesn't buy happiness, but it has to help, right?

Maybe it's not the lotto. Maybe it's the lie that if I have more, buy more, or save more, then I will feel more satisfied, less stressed, and more secure. We may not own up to it, but we end up believing that our net worth equals our self worth.

Get ready. In this session Chip hits us where it hurts the most – in our wallets. He highlights one of the most deceptive lies thrust upon our culture and why it impacts our relationships so deeply. By the end, we will discover why we are absolutely mistaken if we believe we are one winning number away from a jackpot of joy.

VIDEO NOTES:

LIE 4: "MY SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE ARE MEASURED BY THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE THINGS I POSSESS."

"If I had more money, I would be happier?"

True or false? (circle one)

- | **EXHIBIT A** = Yesterday's Headlines
- | **EXHIBIT B** = Today's Relationships

The Lie

MY _____ AND _____ IS MEASURED BY THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE THINGS I _____ . _____ PROVIDE SECURITY AND POWER, SO I CAN BE SAFE, PERSONALLY SATISFIED, AND RULE MY WORLD.

*Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 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. 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. 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. **JAMES 5:1-6** (NASB)*

Overview of the Passage:

- | Intended Audience
- | Historical Background
- | Structure of the Passage

VIDEO NOTES:

The Truth

**GOD _____ OPPOSED TO WEALTH.
MANY OF THE GREATEST BELIEVERS IN THE BIBLE
WERE WEALTHY; BUT GOD _____ OPPOSED TO
THE MISUSE AND ABUSE OF WEALTH.**

**WARNING! THE MISUSE OF WEALTH BRINGS
GOD'S _____.**

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.” v1

THE WRONG USES OF WEALTH - 4 WARNINGS!

1. DON'T _____ !

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. v2-3

2. DON'T _____ !

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. v4

3. DON'T _____ !

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. v5

4. DON'T _____ !

You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you. v6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What part of what Chip shared impacted you the most?
2. Why is money such a “hot button” in our relationships? What does money reveal about our inner attitudes and values?
3. How is “The Lie” sold to us daily? What are some general evidences that most of us buy much of “The Lie”?
4. How have you experienced the abuses of wealth as described by James 5:1-6?
5. What measures can we implement to keep us from buying things just because we can afford it?

SESSION 7: KEYS

WE MAY NOT BELIEVE IT INTELLECTUALLY, BUT EMOTIONALLY WE BELIEVE THE LIE THAT MORE MONEY OR MORE POSSESSIONS MAKES US MORE SATISFIED

OUR CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY IS AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY HOW WE HANDLE OUR MONEY

“Too many people spend money they haven’t earned to buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.”

WILL ROGERS

ACTION STEPS:

Chances are this message cut deep. Few things reveal the state of our hearts like the state of our checkbooks. Jesus didn’t mince words when He said, “You cannot serve both God and wealth.” How do you steward the resources God has given you? Look at Chip’s four admonitions below. Beside each one, write down how you are doing on a scale of one to ten (1 being a scrooge and 10 being a generous philanthropist).

1. Don’t hoard it!
2. Don’t steal it!
3. Don’t waste it!
4. Don’t abuse it!

Which one do you struggle with the most? Why is that? What is a practical step you can do this week to change your habits in one of these areas?

AT HOME:

One may think after a study like this that God opposes the rich. However, God blesses people with wealth and therefore has principles for them to follow. Take Chip's Bible Study challenge on the topic of wealth. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NASB).

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Take a few moments and write down at least five positive principles of how to use the wealth with which God has blessed you.

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 16:13 (NASB)

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.