

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2: GREED

Read the Text

Luke 12: 13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” 16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Main Point

What do you think of when you hear the word “greed”? We may think of it in terms of just wanting more material goods. But the reality is that ***greed is the selfish, excessive desire for more than is needed in an attempt to bring purpose to life, when that purpose should only come from God.*** It's where we seek comfort and value outside of Jesus. What can this look like in our lives though? ***Greed can hide itself in everything from a lack of money, to excessive debt, to acquiring more and more***

wealth and possessions. Whether we have lots of money, or very little money, greed lives in all of us. What are we to do with this sin? Fortunately, God never leaves us alone in our sin to figure it out for ourselves. In fact, our greed exposes our deep need and dependence on God's saving grace. And as we open our eyes to our own greed, God will show us that ***generosity is the antidote to greed.*** Generosity eliminates greed by replacing the power of money with the power of an abiding life in Jesus.

Reflect Together

- 1. *Who is God?***: No one is more generous than our loving Father. Jesus models this generosity in his life, death, and resurrection. Meditate on that as a group. Talk about the lavish generosity of our God. How does that effect or change you?
- 2. *What has He done?***: How do you see God's generosity in your life? Do you have any stories where He stretched you in your generosity, or challenged you in your greed?
- 3. *Who are you?***: How do you see greed play a role in your life? Where have you experienced growth in this, and where do you still feel stuck?
- 4. *What are you to do?***: What is one step you could take towards further generosity? Do you feel any resistance to this? How can your MC or DNA support you?

Abide Together

As an MC, pray together about what was revealed during this discussion. Pray that the Spirit would move you to explore your greed and grow in generosity.

Mission Together

There are generosity opportunities all around us. This can be generosity with our time, our finances, or expertise. What is one act of generosity God could be calling you to do this week?