



The Bankruptcy of Hoarding

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

Listen!

- Expecting corruption...leads to not being shocked. (vv 8, 9)
- Loving money...leads to dissatisfaction. (vv 10-12)
- Hoarding money...leads to personal harm. (vv 13-17)
- Seeing money as a gift from God...leads to enjoyment. (vv 18-20)

How to connect your money and your things to God:

1. Love God, not money. (Matt 6:24)
2. Trust God, not money. (Eccl 5:13,14 and Matt 6:33,34)
3. View every last thing as a gift from God. (Deut 8:18; Ps 24:1; Ps 145:14-16)
4. Steward God's money by giving to God's work: local church, missions, poor. (Matthew 6:19-21 and 1 Tim 6:18 and Acts 20:35)
5. Steward God's money by supporting your family. (1 Tim 5:8)
6. Steward God's money by saving for the future. (Prov 21:20)
7. Steward God's money by enjoying all your blessings from Him. (1 Tim 6:17)
8. Cultivate a life of utter and continual and absolute contentment. (Phil 4:10-12)

The Big Idea: The path to joy is to have a loose grip on money and a tight grip on God.

For Instance:

Live Differently. In order to respond to God's Word in Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 I will do at least 1 of the 15 following things this week:

- Create and follow a family budget.
- Plan to register for the Crown Financial course at the CBC Life University
- Give a gift to the Taggarts for the support of their four adopted children.
- Give an above and beyond gift to the Missions Fund of Cypress Bible Church.
- Give away 5 physical possessions to someone in need.
- Start a savings system for my children's college (or nephew's or grandchild's).
- Drive my current car another year or ten instead of getting a new one.
- Make a plan and a timeline to increase my personal giving to 10% of my income.
- Make a plan and a timeline to increase my personal giving to 20% of my income.
- Make a plan and a timeline to increase my personal giving to 30% of my income.
- Make a list of 100 things that I am thankful to God for.
- Demonstrate my trust in God by giving a sacrificial gift to a place He directs me.
- Add a line item in my monthly budget for funds that I will give to needy people.
- Ask God how I can better love Him and use money. Listen to Him receptively.
- Throw a party for family, neighbors and friends to enjoy God's gift of hamburger.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

The Big Idea: The path to joy is to have a loose grip on money and a tight grip on God.

- **Today:** Is there any way that you are acting with corruption toward those under you? Will you abandon that today and for good and make it right?
- **Monday:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any evidence in your life that you are loving money. Will you abandon it today and for good?
- **Tuesday:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any evidence in your life that you are hoarding money. Will you abandon it today and for good?
- **Wednesday:** What is your attitude toward your job? Cynicism? Grudge? Boredom? Anger? Necessary evil? Gratitude?
- **Thursday:** Does anything need to change in your attitude toward possessions?
- **Friday:** Reflect on the statement: “I love God and use money.”
- **Saturday:** Reflect on the statement: “I trust God and use money.”

“Companionship Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

GETTING STARTED:

- Describe the life of someone you know who had or has a tight grip on money.
- Describe the life of someone you know who had or has a loose grip on money.

LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- In Eccl 5:8, 9 we are commanded not to be shocked at injustice and corruption. What else does the Bible tell us to do regarding injustice and corruption?
- In Eccl 5:10-12 what are the disadvantages of increasing money? Why does more money not lead to more satisfaction?
- In Eccl 5:13-17 why does hoarding lead to personal harm? Have you seen a hoarder experience that harm? What did that look like?
- In Eccl 5:18-20 what does it look like in our lives to “eat, drink, and enjoy ourselves in our labors?”
- In Eccl 5 Solomon says that some people get really rich and cannot enjoy it and others get really rich and can enjoy it. What is the difference—in great detailed specificity?! (I know the answer is “God” but please expand on that a bit!!)

LIVE DIFFERENTLY: Based on Eccl 5:8-20 I will: _____