

Study Guide – Love Songs 5, “Money Can’t Buy Me Love”, from 3-4-2018

Key Scriptures:

Mark 8:34-37 “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Acts 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Matthew 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Galatians 5:6 for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Start Talking. *(Find a conversation starter for your group)*

- Why do you think that many people hoard things they will never use instead of giving them away?
What’s in your basement, garage, attic, closets, barns?
- What causes hoarding instead of giving? Is there a fear of giving away something you might later need?
What else could cause it?

Start Thinking. *(Ask a thoughtful question.)*

- Read Mark 8:34-37. Do you think that Christians are exempt from the temptation to fill their lives with material wealth? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby said, “We’re created in God’s image. Only when we live like Him are we happy.” His point is that we can be happy here, in this life, only by doing as God did - give, not hoard. How would your life change if your focus was on giving to and helping others much more often? Share.

- Discuss how the Christian balances the need for providing for themselves and their families and a life of giving. How do you do it? Where is the line? What are the temptations?

Start sharing. (*Choose questions that create openness.*)

- What does a life of giving have to do with faith? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby gave eight scripture references to people who were healed because they had faith. Can we ever have so much money that we don't need faith?
- Read Proverbs 8:9. What is the warning in the first part of verse 9? Can greater wealth drive even the Christian to move away from God?
- If you don't need anything, do you really need faith? Hebrews 11:6 reads, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him." Could it be that the need to trust God for something that you need is more important than the comfort of not needing to trust God? Which of these states pleases God? How uncomfortable does the uncertainty of having faith make you feel?
- Can you think of an example when you gave to help someone else, and God gave back to you more than you gave away? If not, try exercising the faith needed to do that.

Start Praying. (*Be bold, and pray with power.*)

Father, we want nothing more than to please you. Help us to remember every day what you said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Thank you for showing us the pathway to blessing. Please give us the wisdom to follow it.

Start Doing. (*Commit to a step and live it out this week.*)

- Share one specific example of how you can exercise faith by giving more and hoarding less.
- Read James 1:5-7. Practice praying without letting doubt creep into your thoughts as you do. Derive a mental method to catch doubt as soon as it arrives.
- A hard heart keeps things to itself. A loving heart has faith to give as God provides opportunities. Work on the components of your life that make you hard hearted.

The Lord said,

“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” *Ezekiel 11:19-21*