

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Message Summary:

This week, Pastor John Carter taught about the second thorn from Mark 4 – the deceitfulness of riches. These are the lies that we believe about money, wealth and perhaps most importantly, our sense of security. This is motivated by the fear of being without, of experiencing lack, of not being able to provide for our needs. There is something about the pursuit of money that is a powerful illusion, because we find ourselves falling prey to the belief: “If I have enough money, then I am secure.” As if money could make us happy or fulfill us. Riches give us a false sense of security. Like thorns, the love for money can prick you with the constant worry of never having enough. Riches and money are not evil in and of itself. It is a system made by God, because God made the Earth, and all resources come from it. But it is our love for money that can corrupt or pollute the soil of our heart. First and foremost, we must have a relationship with the One who created every resource. Money was designed to serve us; we were not designed to serve it. The quality of your life does not consist in the abundance of what you possess (Luke 12:15). So what is the answer to the corruption of money? **GIVING**. Generosity undermines the deceitfulness of riches. It proves that your attachment is not to money, but to the Source – God. Giving will provide blessings the hoarding of money never could!

Key Scriptures:

- **Read Mark 4:1-20 which includes the Story of the Sower**
- **Read Luke 12:13-34 which includes the Parable of the Rich Fool**
- [Luke 12:22-23, 34 NKJV] 22 Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 "Life is more than food, and the body [is more] than clothing. ... 34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- [Philippians 4:19 NKJV] 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the “deceitfulness of riches” mean to you?
2. Do you find yourself worrying about money or how God will take care of you?
3. How do you release worry from your life?
4. What is one way you can demonstrate that you know God will take care of your needs?

Life Application:

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor John said, “You need to have vision for God to provide for you and to bless you, one that can include material things, too! But be careful that you are not hinging your potential joy on things that cannot truly fulfill you. Don’t set your heart on anything but what God can provide for you.” Do you have a vision for your life? A vision that includes blessings, even material blessings from God? Or are you stuck wanting more of what you can’t have? It is better to write down a vision that includes blessings that only God can give to you! Take some time this week and seek God. Ask Him what blessings you need to be believing for in this season. Release the desire for things that will never fulfill you, and instead, put your hope in the One who supplies all your need according to His riches in glory!