

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: The Upside Down
Message Title: The Monster of Greed
Speaker: Robert Conn
Date: January 29, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Super Bowl Sunday Time** - We are moving the 4:30 service to 3pm on Sunday, Feb. 5 so that people can have Super Bowl watch parties with their Life Groups and neighbors. No, we don't love football more than God, we just think this is an awesome opportunity to invest in your 1More!

MAIN IDEA

Greed isn't a financial problem, it is a heart problem.

INTRODUCTION

- Allow me a moment of honesty. I don't like most Bible Studies. Sorry, but it's true. I just don't like the way they are usually lined out. Allow me to explain. Typically, they give you a verse to look up like John 3:16 for example. Then they waste your precious time asking you senseless questions like "So WHO loved the world that He gave his only son?" and "Whoever believes will have WHAT KIND of life?" They feel so elementary to me honestly. Maybe its just me but I don't like insulting people intelligence like that. Now if that type of Bible study is your thing then you probably think I'm an idiot right now. Sorry about that.
- The reason I bring this up is that when we talk about real life issues like Greed, those types of Bible Studies fail drastically to teach us anything we didn't already know.
- The equation is painfully easy... What the Bible says about Greed
+ We all agree Greed is a bad thing
= Go and don't be greedy
- That's it. No real discussion. No real confession. No real change.
- With this new Sermon Series. I want to try something different. You're either going to love this or you're going to hate this. I guess you'll get out of it what you put into it.

DISCUSSION

- YOU'RE GREEDY, YES YOU... QUIT IGNORING ME... YES YOU!
- A quick show of hands... how many of you struggle from time to time with Greed? (p.s. everybody's hand should be up).
- If anyone does not think they struggle with greed then they probably are categorizing greed in only one particular area (i.e. finances). So maybe you are doing very well in not being greedy with your finances but the truth about greed is that it creeps up in just about every area of our life. So chances are you could be greedy and not even realize it.
- For those brave souls who admitted they struggle with greed... In what ways do you struggle?
- Greed can be defined as *"...the insatiable desire to have more money, position, or possessions for self-gratification, while ignoring God and eternity."* Doesn't that sound horrible? Now you know why no one wants to admit to that.
 - The key word would be "more". It is so subjective. What counts as 'more' for me might not be 'more' for you.
 - Greed is an attitude that says, "All I want is a little bit more"

- Have someone read [\(Luke 12:13-21\)](#) Can you identify with anyone in this parable?
 - The man wasn't content, even though he had plenty. He wanted more and more. That's greed.
- Do you agree with this statement: *Greed improperly places value on temporal things.* What is the opposite of this way of thinking?
 - What are some ways it is possible to be greedy without wealth?
 - What are some ways it is possible to be wealthy without greed?
- Which is worse, greed or idolatry?
- Which is worse, greed or sexual immorality?
 - Have someone read [Colossians 3:5](#)
 - Did you know that greed is considered equal to idolatry and brings the wrath of God?
 - Did you know that almost every time greed is mentioned in Scripture, it is paired with sexual immorality?
- Hypothetical solution: Sell all of our possessions and give everything away in order to be spiritual and holy
 - Believe it or not a lot of Christians hold this view (and a lot of other Christians buy their books). It's called the poverty gospel and it claims that the more you simplify your life the holier you will be. That isn't always true however. *If it were, then I was Jesus Jr. in college.*
- You can tell if you struggle with Greed by how you answer these questions: Discuss some of these as a group.
 - *Do I view my money and possessions as mine or God's?*
 - *If I knew that I were to die in one year, would I do anything different in my management of God's resources?*
 - *Why do I want more money?*
 - *Am I more concerned about making money than I am about my eternal destiny?*
 - *What is the source of my security: money or God?*
 - *How much do I mourn the loss of money and things?*
 - *Do I cling to my things or am I generous and ready to share?*
 - *Do I compromise godly character or priorities in the pursuit of making money?*
 - *Am I in bondage to credit cards and debt?*

APPLY IT

- The three ways we discussed Sunday to fight Greed is:
 - Stop Unnecessary Getting
 - Start Practicing Generosity
 - Start Living with Gratitude

Which one of these are you going to focus on this week?

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCE
LIFE, MONEY, & HOPE - by Dave Ramsey

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