

Villains
Greed Leads to Betrayal
Discover Church
Mark Phillips
July 26, 2026

The High Cost of a Cheap Betrayal

I. The tragedy of a **wasted life**

“Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.” Matthew 26:14-16

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10

II. The **anatomy** of greed

- It begins **subtly**

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” Luke 12:15

- It breeds **dishonesty**

“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.” John 12:5-6

- It buries the **conscience**

“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?” Matthew 20:15

III. The **Blinding** Power of Greed

- Distorts **priorities**

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” James 3:16

- The trap of **idolatry**

“For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God...Therefore do not be partners with them.” Ephesians 5:5, 7

- Selling out the **Savior**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What

shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” Matthew 6:25; 31-32

Antidote to Greed

- Seek the **Kingdom of God**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34

- Address the **small sins** that lead to **compromise**

“Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.” Acts 8:19-23

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” Hebrews 12:14-15

- Live **Generously**

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

Greedy people don’t prosper!

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” 1 Timothy 6:18

- **Embrace** the **grace** of Jesus Christ

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:9-10

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- I. The tragedy of a _____
- II. The _____ of greed
 - It begins _____
 - It breeds _____
 - It buries the _____
- III. The _____ Power of Greed
 - Distorts _____
 - The trap of _____
 - Selling out the _____

Antidote to Greed

- Seek the _____
- Address the _____ that lead to _____
- Live _____
- _____ the _____ of Jesus Christ

Scripture: *Matthew 26:14-16; 1 Timothy 6:10; Luke 12:15; John 12:5-6; Matthew 20:15; James 3:16; Ephesians 5:5, 7; Matthew 6:25; 31-34; Acts 8:19-23; Hebrews 12:14-15; Proverbs 11:25; 1 Timothy 6:18; Luke 19:10; 10:9-10*