

## THE DANGER OF (OVER) DESIRE—GREED

**1John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and **the desires of the eyes** and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Worldly desires create <i>disorder</i> .	Godly desires <i>rule</i> .
Worldly desires <i>disappear</i> .	Godly desires <i>remain</i> .

### THE SERMONETTE

**Matt 6:19** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money/possessions.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all

these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The greedy man is <i>fearful</i> .	The generous man is <i>fearless</i> .
The greedy man is <i>blind</i> .	The generous man <i>sees</i> .
The greedy man is <i>enslaved</i> .	The generous man is <i>free</i> .
The greedy man is <i>anxious</i> .	The generous man is <i>secure</i> .

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

### 1. Consider your pattern of desires.

- What is your treasure? What do you wish you had more of?
- What do you see in someone else's life that you wish was your own?

### 2. Consider your pattern of responses.

- Are you hiding something regarding possessions/money? If your answer is "yes," then name what is hiding. If your answer is "no," then name what you used to hide and how and when you stopped hiding it.

### 3. Consider what you would change if changed something.

- When you do give, do you do it cheerfully? Freely? Or is it mostly duty or guilt?
- What need in the world might you help satisfy through your treasure?
- If you felt totally free to give, what would you give to and why?

### 4. Consider your pattern of temptation.

- How might greed show up in your life? How is it tempting to you?
- Do you have a person(s) of trust you can contact before/when you are tempted? If you answer "yes," share how you found them and why you trust them and how they are helping you with greed. If your answer is "no," name a few people of trust you might consider and what their relationship is to you.