

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 25-30, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus makes it clear that we need to put God first in all aspects of our lives. But one of the hardest areas to make that happen is with our finances. Although we don't worship idols like some cultures in Biblical times, we have our own idols that compete with our attention for God. So how can we truly overcome the competition for our hearts?

Monday: Acts 20:17-35

Paul is recounting how he has lived and, in so doing, teaching others how they, too, should live. If you were to compare how you feel when you willingly give to others to how you feel after you have bought something you really wanted for yourself, which makes you the happiest and which is more lasting? Has your perspective on your needs and wants ever changed? What caused this change?

Tuesday: Mark 12:41-44

When you give your offerings at church, to whom are you giving? When you donate to charities, to whom are you giving? Should we feel guilty if we don't have enough to make a "meaningful" offering? Should we feel satisfied giving a large amount if it's not really as much as we feel we are able to give? Does giving, regardless of the amount, enrich us spiritually?

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Here Paul is saying that God promises to make us rich if we are generous. When he said this, Paul had virtually nothing of material value. What does "rich" mean to you in your own life? Would you be satisfied and thankful if you had the same kind of wealth that Paul had? In what way(s) has God been generous to you? How can you pass God's generosity on to other people? How could doing this have a multiplying effect? Could the world be changed by a single act of generosity?

Thursday: Luke 12:13-21

In this parable, what did the rich man do wrong? How did he measure his success? How did God measure his success? If the rich man asked you, what would you recommend to him to improve his life? How could he become "rich toward God"? Have you seen material wealth, without a rich relationship to God, become a burden? How do we draw a line between providing wisely for our material needs and becoming like the rich man in the parable?

Friday: Matthew 16:21-26

Here Jesus warns us about focusing too much on our earthly life and missing the fact that our soul, our eternal self, is far more important. In what ways might we tend to focus too much on our earthly lives?

MOVING FORWARD

The first step in overcoming the competition for our hearts is to identify our idols. There are two main indicators as to what we worship - how we spend our time and our money. This week, examine how you are spending both. Then take a step to honor and glorify God with your time, talents and resources instead of spending them on your idols.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Idolatry, B) primary. IIA) commitment, B) passions.
III A) time, B) money.*