

Greed - a Fearful Master

by Bishop M.A. Lalachan

Greed is a sin that can never be fulfilled and can lead to a person becoming an idolater, losing their eternal inheritance, and falling into ruin and destruction.

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Mark 7:22, Luke 12:15, John 11:25, John 14:19, Romans 1:29, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 5:3, Ephesians 5:5, 1 Timothy 6:7-8

Topics: "Materialism", "Spiritual Priorities"

Description

Bishop M.A. Lalachan delivers a powerful sermon on the dangers of greed, emphasizing that while it is not wrong to desire a comfortable life, it is crucial to distinguish between needs and greed. Greed, listed as one of the gravest sins in the Bible, is an obsession with accumulating material goods, valuing them more than God. Jesus warns against greed, stating that life does not consist of possessions, and urges us to seek God's kingdom first. Paul cautions that the love of money leads to ruin and destruction, advising us to pursue righteousness and godliness instead of wealth.

Transcript

I came across this interesting Quote the other day, "Whether you have a Maruti or a Mercedes, the road remains the same... Whether you travel economy or business class, the destination doesn't change.... Whether you have a Titan or a Rolex, time is the same.... Whether you have Apple or Samsung, people who call you remain the same..... There is nothing wrong in dreaming a comfortable life. What needs to be taken care of is to not let the NEED become GREED. Because needs can always be met. But greed can never be fulfilled. ...".

Mahatma Gandhi said "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." Greed is the disordered love of riches. According to Pope Gregory, Greed is also one of the Seven Deadly Sins. Like pride, lust, gluttony, sloth, anger, and envy, greed is called a "deadly" sin because it gives rise to other sin. More importantly, we must realize that all sin results in death (Romans 6:23)

Greed is sin - contrary to character of God. Listed in the Bible with the gravest of sins - (see Mark 7:22; Rom. 1:29; Eph. 5:3) Greed is related to materialism and involves the "personal aspiration" of the "lust of the eyes" (1 Jn. 2:16) From a Biblical perspective, the core definition of greed is that it is the obsession with accumulating material goods. A greedy person values material goods more than they value God. The Bible also tells us that greed is something that can never be satisfied. Indeed, we really do need money--or at least food, clothing, and shelter--to survive. There is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting

to secure the physical well-being of ourselves and our loved ones through the use of money. However, a healthy desire for Basic needs, and by extension a luxurious life, can grow sometimes into an unnatural and unhealthy desire for riches. To destroy our unhealthy desire for power, and riches we must be generous in granting power to others and sharing our blessings with others.

What is wrong with desiring riches too much? Put in the biblical context, Greedy person is an idolater. Ephesians 5:5 reads; "You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world." Greed and slothfulness have similarities in definition. The greedy and slothful both crave material goods as well as they have no desire to work for or to exchange anything of value for the object of their desires. The slothful will not work even for basic necessities much less add value to the world around them. The greedy will use deception to acquire material good and will lie and use false pretenses to acquired goods at the expense of others.

This is why Jesus warned us in Luke 12:15 "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Did Jesus pursue the acquisition of wealth? No. On the contrary, He became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9) and had "no place to lay his head" (Matthew 8: 20). Our Lord Jesus Christ said "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24) We can use the things God bestows on us for His glory. But remember "Money is a good servant, but a bad master" The only disciple concerned with money was the Judas, who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. If we focus on earthly things like material wealth and possessions, then we fail to give God the glory and worship He deserves.

This is why Paul said in First Timothy 6:8-10 "So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." and we are warned, "Do not put your trust in wealth But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

Don't lose our eternal inheritance for something as worthless as worldly wealth. We are to serve God, not waste our time trying to become rich (Proverbs 23:4). Our heart's desire should be to store up riches in heaven and not worry about stuff. Jesus said "But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mathew 6:33).

Remember; you can't take your accumulated wealth with you when you leave this world. First Timothy 6:7 says, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Friends, we have a blessed future! The material world is falling apart around us. Our government has its limitation. Our morals are bankrupt. Our culture has abandoned the truth. Things look bad. But Consider When our hopes crush, & dreams collapse, the great wealth in Christ, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7) and the promise of lord Jesus "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," (John 11:25) He also said "Because I live, you shall live also," (John 14:19). God will take care of our life, so learn to relax in God's hands. Our God is still on the throne, and our Lord is still coming for His people. In that we can and should rejoice!

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