

Habits, Vices & Sins, Oh My! – Part 4 – Greed

A word that runs our lives, our hearts, our country & our economy: **MORE** ...

...which becomes dangerous when it cross over into **GREED**.

I Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Definition of Greed:

*preoccupied with **possessions**.*

*→When we desire **MORE** so we can say, "**MINE!**"*

Genesis 13:1-4

Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev—he, his wife, and all he had, and **Lot** with him. Abram was **very rich** in livestock, silver, and gold. He went by stages from the Negev to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had formerly been, to the site where he had built **the altar**. And Abram called on the name of the Lord there.

1) Is God more like a **treasure map** or is He the **Treasure**?

Nothing wrong with “more” until “more” means less of God.

Genesis 13:5-7

Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. But the land was unable to support them as long as they stayed together, for they had **so many possessions** that they could not stay together, and there was **quarreling** between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. (At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.)

Genesis 13:8-9

So Abram said to Lot, “Please, let’s not have quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, since we are relatives. Isn’t the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left.”

2) Am I trying to fill my **emptiness** or share my **fullness**?

Abraham: **Blessed** to be a **blessing**.

\$1000: Spend? Save? Give? Debt?

Genesis 13:10-11

Lot looked out and saw that the entire plain of the Jordan as far as Zoar was well watered everywhere like the Lord's garden and the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed **Sodom and Gomorrah**.) So Lot chose the entire plain of the Jordan for himself. Then Lot journeyed **eastward**, and they separated from each other.

(one slide)

The Path (The Heart Pattern):

Stare at what we lack

Stirs up **discontentment**

Can make **smart** seem **stupid**

Genesis 13:12-13

Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot lived in the cities on the plain and set up his tent **near** Sodom. (Now the men of Sodom were evil, **sinning immensely** against the Lord.)

Genesis 14:11-12

The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on. They also took Abram's nephew **Lot and his possessions**, for he was living **in** Sodom, and they went on.

a) **Relationships** and **love** are put at risk.

b) The path of more creates **more problems**.

Genesis 13:14-18

After Lot had separated from him, the Lord said to Abram, "Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted. Get up and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tent and went to live near the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an **altar** to the Lord.

3) What will **God** do vs. What will **stuff/money** do? {Hope}

Hebrews 11:9-10,13

And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God ... All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

The Solution:

- 1) The real tragedy: not knowing **why** ...
 - a) ... You **have** more.
 - b) ... You **want** more.

- 2) The habit of **letting go**. (open handedness)
 - a) We need financial **margin**.

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- b) 3 levels:
Consistently

ONLINE GIVING GRAPHIC

Sacrificially
Spontaneously

BOLD VIDEO

- c) Ask: How do I really **know Jesus**?

Philippians 3:8-9

I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the **surpassing value** of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in Him