

Virtual Bible Class with Rubel Shelly

“Serving Two Masters?” - Matthew 6:24-25

Here are some review and discussion questions that might help you pursue ideas highlighted in the video segments that discuss this section of the Sermon on the Mount...

Unit 1 – Choose One!

1. Jesus is a masterful teacher and uses *personification* (wealth as master/materialist as slave) and *hyperbole* (love/hate, devoted to/despise) to dramatize his teaching here. What is the image you have of someone being a “slave to wealth”?
2. Rubel defined greed as “when enough is not enough.” What does that definition communicate to you? How would you define greed?
3. How do these verses relate to Matthew 6:19-21?
4. How might the story of a Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) be used to illustrate the meaning of these verses from the Sermon on the Mount?
5. What pressures does our American culture place on us that make this text particularly challenging?

Unit 2 – The Ultimate Addiction?

1. The video begins with an Erich Fromm quotation: “Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction.” How do you react to his statement?
2. Do you agree that money can be as addictive as alcohol and drugs? Explain.
3. What is the common thread of all addictive behaviors?
4. How does the following question mean very different things from the point of view of Scripture over against a materialistic culture: *How much is that person worth?*
5. Close this second study by reflecting on these three texts: Ecclesiastes 5:10-12; Amos 6:4-6; Hebrews 13:5.

Unit 3 – Something *Positive* About Money

1. Why do you think most biblical texts about money and wealth are negative in tone?
2. From 1 Timothy 6:17-18, summarize Paul’s positive comments about wealth, enjoyment, and generosity.
3. Does the Bible really teach that money is the root of all evil? See 1 Timothy 6:10.
4. Why do you think so many people misquote 1 Timothy 6:10?
5. Rubel offered a progression of (a) basic economic responsibility to (b) opportunity to help others by sharing to (c) indulgence and flaunting one’s wealth. Can you recall the key biblical texts used to outline the progression?