

American Idols
Seeking God or Serving Self

The Idol of Possessions

January 6, 2008 – Jeff Gunn

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

²⁰"But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

²¹"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:13-21, NIV).

⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (Ephesians 5:5, NIV)

²⁵A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper. (Proverbs 28:25, NIV)

1. Jesus wants us to guard against _____.

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4, NIV)

Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (Philippians 2:3-4, The Message)

1. Jesus wants us to stand for _____.

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21, NIV)

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:12, NIV)

2. Jesus wants us to pursue _____ toward God.

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Guard against greed by substituting faith. Trusting God for provision is the secret of true contentment. Pray and act!
- Choose a target for selfless generosity this week. Look next door, in the next cubicle, in your growth group at CrossWalk!
- Meditate on and memorize Matthew 6:19-21.