

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: March 10, 2019

SUBJECT: THE LORD'S PRAYER—A Model: (6) Not Being Brought into Temptation, but Being Delivered from Evil (3 of 5)—Greed and Covetousness

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:13a; Luke 11:4b; Exodus 16:1-36; 1 Kings 21:1-29; John 12:4-6; Luke 12:13-34; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8

AIM: For the children to recognize that Satan tempts us through greed and covetousness and to help them learn how to resist him and his temptations.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Luke 12:15 (And He said to them, Watch and guard yourself from all covetousness, for no one's life is in the abundance of his possessions.); Philippians 4:11b (...for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.); Hebrews 13:5 (Let your way of life be without the love of money, being satisfied with the things which are at hand; for He Himself has said, "I shall by no means give you up, neither by any means shall I abandon you"); Acts 20:35b (...It is more blessed to give than to receive.); 2 Cor. 9:7 (Each one as he has purposed in his heart, not out of sorrow or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 9524 *Bible Story Songs Vessels Unto Honor Song #4* (What Kind of Sharer); 12 (What Can I Give Jesus); 17 (What is Sharing All About); 19 (When We're Kind to Others); 162 (Praise Him! Praise Him!); 9219 *BSS David Song #19* (I'd Like to Honor You); 9031 *BSS Go Jesus Song 12* (If You Ever See a Needy One)

CRAFT IDEAS: (1) Make a piggy bank out of a small box, coffee can, mini Pringles can or mini water bottle. (2) On cardstock or colored construction paper, draw a treasure chest, label three sections inside: save, give, and spend.

BACKGROUND: In the model of prayer the Lord gave us, Matthew 6:13a says, "**And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**" We have seen that this evil one is the enemy, Satan, who tries to damage our vessels to make us useless to God. Then last week, we talked about one of the main ways Satan tries to tempt us—to be proud. This week, we will see another way Satan tempts us—to be greedy and to covet.

APPROACH: Ask the children: 1) What is the first thing you think of when you are given money (allowance, birthday or holiday) or earn some money? 2) Do you have some kind of piggy bank? or a bank account? What would you do if the piggy bank got full and had no more room in it? 3) Do you save your money for something special? (new bike, Lego set, school bake sale, souvenirs on a trip, etc.)

CONTENT: Satan's Temptations (continued)

II. To be greedy and to covet. *Greed* is a selfish desire to get more or to want more than what we need. Satan often tempts us to be greedy by making us not content with what we have. He can stir up greed in many areas: food, toys, clothes, money, etc. *Covetousness* is to crave something someone else has. Very often we can be tempted by what our eyes see—we get attracted by what somebody else has—and then we desire in our heart to have it.

Here are four examples from the Bible of some who were greedy or coveted and fell into Satan's trap.

****Note to teachers: It is not meant that all the details of the Scripture portions be given to the children. The portions are included to emphasize the matter of greed and covetousness and can be told in a brief way as summarized below. (We can cover fewer examples for younger children.)***

Manna (Exodus 16:1-36) After their departure from Egypt while in the wilderness, the children of Israel were murmuring to Moses and Aaron and complained that while back in Egypt they ate meat and bread to

the full but now the whole congregation would be killed due to hunger. Jehovah said to Moses that He would rain bread from heaven. This was manna from heaven and God gave Moses specific instructions for the children of Israel on how much to gather, and when to collect it. They had to collect it every day, and not take more than they needed. But some did not listen. Those who took more than an omer per person, found their manna stank the next morning and Moses was indignant with those who were greedy. They had disobeyed God by ignoring Moses' instructions and taking too much. However, on the sixth day, they were allowed to gather two days portion, enough for the Sabbath. The extra portion did not breed worms or stink on the Sabbath morning. God gave them their daily bread. The children of Israel ate manna for forty years.

Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-29). Ahab was one of the kings of Israel. A man named Naboth had a vineyard alongside King Ahab's palace, in Jezreel. King Ahab wanted to have Naboth's vineyard to use it for a vegetable garden, so he told Naboth to give the vineyard to him. The king offered Naboth a better vineyard or he would pay Naboth its value in money. But Naboth righteously told the king, "Jehovah forbid that I give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" When Ahab heard what Naboth said, he went into his house sullen and vexed. He lay down on his bed and turned away his face and wouldn't eat any food. Ahab's evil wife, Jezebel, asked the king why he was so sullen and why he wouldn't eat any food. When Ahab told her about Naboth and the vineyard, Jezebel promised to get Naboth's vineyard for him. She devised an evil plot to put Naboth on trial. Naboth was falsely accused of cursing God and the king and was sentenced to death. When Ahab found out from Jezebel that Naboth was dead, he rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth to take possession of it. Eventually, Ahab and Jezebel were judged by God for their evil sins.

Judas Iscariot (John 12:4-6). Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed the Lord, was like a treasurer—he took care of "the purse", i.e., the finances used by the Lord and the disciples to take care of their needs and the needs of others (John 13:29). Because of his greed and love for money, he stole from the purse with which he had been entrusted. Later, he betrayed the Lord—also for money (thirty pieces of silver). He had given ground in his heart to Satan because of greed and love for money.

The foolish rich man (Luke 12:13-34). One day, as a warning not to be covetous, the Lord Jesus told a parable about a rich man. The land of the rich man had brought forth abundantly. The man reasoned in himself, saying, "What shall I do, for I have no place where I may gather my crops?" The rich man said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones and I will gather there all my wheat and my goods." Instead of being satisfied with his riches, he wanted even more. He then said, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "Foolish one, this night they are requiring your soul from you; and the things which you have prepared, whose will they be?"

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

Satan can trick us so that we think what matters most is how much we have. He may also blind us so that we don't see or care for the needs of others. We can resist Satan's temptation to be greedy and covetous *by learning to be content and thankful to the Lord for the things we have, and by learning to give to the Lord and by sharing what we have with others.*

- **We should be thankful to the Lord for all that He has given to us.** Ahab had so much. He was a very wealthy king. Instead of being content with what he had, he coveted Naboth's vineyard. There is no need for us to covet the things of others. We should be appreciative and thankful for all the Lord has provided for us and be content with what we have (1 Tim. 6:8).

- **We should not love money.** Judas allowed money and greed to control his heart. We must not give ground to Satan. We must love the Lord and give Him the ground in our heart.
- **We should learn to give.** Every week, we all can offer something to the Lord. It need not be much—even if we don't have much, we can still give. Giving to the Lord is a practical way of showing appreciation to Him for His love, care, and provision. (Point out to the children where the offering box is. Some districts have a designated offering box for children's meeting.)
- **We should learn to share** instead of hoarding like the foolish rich man. What else could the rich man have done with the abundance God had given him? He could have shared it and given it to those in need. If he had done this, God would not have called him foolish. May we all be wise in giving and sharing with others. When we are greedy or covet, we are being selfish, only thinking about 'me, myself, and I' but when we think of others and share whatever we have (big or small), we honor God, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children's Meeting Lessons: 8/8/82; 2/28/87; 9/23/90; 8/30/98; 9/1/02; 3/16/08; 3/09/14