

FREEDOM

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MATTHEW 6:19-24 AND PROVERBS 3: 9, 10

Introduction

1. The Chains of _____
2. The Chains of _____
3. The Chains of _____
4. The Chains of a _____

The Bondage-Breaking Habit

- Ensures _____
- Initiates _____
- Stores up _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Describe a skill (or two) that you've developed from hours of practice (or constant repetition). If discipline gives us the freedom to perform certain acts well, why do we often resist discipline?
2. What aspects of personal money management are you good at? Where do you need improvement?
3. Read Matthew 6:19, 20. Why does Jesus say that storing up treasures on earth is a bad idea? What money-related anxieties do you occasionally wrestle with? Read Matthew 6:25-34 and make a list of reasons not to worry from these verses.
4. Read Matthew 6:21. What are the differences between treasures on earth and treasures in heaven? Does Jesus teach that our money will follow our hearts or that our hearts will follow our money? Explain the difference. How might consistent giving to the Lord's work impact your own spiritual growth?
5. Read Matthew 6:22, 23. Keeping the context of these verses in mind, what does Jesus warn us not to fix our eyes on? What are Solomon's observations about this tendency in Ecclesiastes 1:8; 5:10? Practically speaking, how might you keep your eyes from always wanting more?
6. Read Matthew 6:24. Why are serving God and serving money mutually exclusive? Read Mark 4:18, 19. What does Jesus say will choke the seed of his Word in our lives? How does that happen? How could you prevent it from happening?
7. Read Proverbs 3:9, 10. In what ways does giving God a tithe (firstfruits) of our paycheck "honor" him? 8. Read Malachi 3:8-10. What does God call the withholding of our tithe? Why is this a bad idea? What does God promise to do, according to this passage, for those who tithe?
8. Of all the disciplines associated with managing money (e.g. budgeting, saving, investing, etc.), why is tithing a good place to begin (multiple answers)? 9) What practical advice does Paul suggest in I Corinthians 16:2 for developing the habit of giving? What additional advice would you give someone who wants to develop this habit? Why do you think the experts say it takes 90 days to develop a good habit?
9. What are some ways in which giving to the Lord's work would have an impact on others? Why might the prospect of storing up treasures in heaven not motivate us--as it should--to give?
10. Describe the various ways in which the discipline of tithing would bring a sense of freedom to your life. What next steps would you like to take in this regard?