

JESUS ON MONEY: CONSUMER CULTURE (PART 2)

Pastor Matt Garvin

The dilemma posed by consumerism is not the endless manufacturing of desires, but the temptation to settle for desires far below what we were created for. ~ Skye Jethani

Matthew 13:22 NIV

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth (and the desires for other things Mark 4:19) choke the word, making it unfruitful."

THE FIRST TEMPTATION: _____

What really characterizes consumer culture is not attachment to things but detachment. People do not hoard money; they spend it. People do not cling to things; they discard them and buy other things... Consumerism is not so much about having more as it is about having something else; that's why it is not simply *buying* but *shopping* that is the heart of consumerism. ~ William T. Cavanaugh

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"

Matthew 6:25 NIV

Jesus's response: _____

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4 NIV

THE SECOND TEMPTATION: _____

Consumer culture is one of the most powerful systems of formation in the contemporary world, arguably more powerful than Christianity. ~ William T. Cavanaugh

Jesus's response: _____

"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test

Matthew 4:7 NIV

THE THIRD TEMPTATION: _____

Jesus's response: _____

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Matthew 4:10 NIV

THE ANTIDOTE TO CONSUMERISM

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:33-34 NIV

MOVING BEYOND CONSUMERISM

- Allow Jesus into your _____
- Enjoy _____
- Know _____ - The _____ rule
- Make _____ a regular experience
- Connect the dots - know where _____
- Intentionally increase your _____
- Re-think your _____ and understand they are actually _____
- Come to church to _____ and _____ rather than to _____ a service
- Take on our _____
- Participate in our _____

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Walter Brueggemann says, "The contemporary American church is so largely enculturated to the American ethos of consumerism that it has little power to believe or act." Do you agree with him? How might consumerism impact your experience of church?
2. Jesus said in the parable of the sower that the worries of life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things will choke the life out of believers and prevent them from seeking His kingdom. Have there been times when that has been true for you?
3. William Cavanaugh says, "Consumerism is not so much about having more as it is about having something else; that's why it is not simply buying but shopping that is the heart of consumerism." Can you see that temptation for yourself? How does it work for you?
4. Read together Matthew 6:25-34. Ask Jesus to show you what he would want you to hear from his words here.
5. Read the story of the temptation of Jesus, concluding with Jesus' answer to the temptation of power: Worship and serve God (Matthew 4:10) - In what ways might God move more to the center of your everyday life in worship and service?
6. Satan has an investment in the two sermons on money not changing any of your behaviour. Read together the list of "next steps" that Pastor Matt had at the end of his sermon and talk together about what it might mean to make real choices to change the power of money and consumerism in your life.

Further Reading:

- Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream ~ David Platt
- The Divine Commodity: Discovering a Faith Beyond Consumer Christianity ~ Skye Jethani
- Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire ~ William T. Cavanaugh
- The Hungry Spirit: New thinking for a New World ~ Charles Handy