

## A STINGY PERSON

TEXT: (Proverbs 23:6-8, NIV)

<sup>6</sup>Do not eat the food of a begrudging host, do not crave his delicacies; <sup>7</sup>for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. “Eat and drink,” he says to you, but his heart is not with you. <sup>8</sup>You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

### INTRODUCTION

1. “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have*” (Hebrews 13:5, KJV).
2. “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid’” (Hebrews 13:5-6, NIV).
3. “For he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. ‘Eat and drink,’ he says to you, but his heart is not with you” (Proverbs 23:7, NIV).
4. “*Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*” (Luke 12:20, KJV).

### I. THE IDOLATRY OF HOARDING

#### A. A Dependence on Material Things

1. “When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” Deuteronomy 6:10-12, NIV).
2. “This is what the LORD says: ‘Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives’” (Jeremiah 17:5-6, NIV).

#### B. How Good Can become Evil

1. “The people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!’” (Numbers 21:4-5, NIV).
2. “Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died” (Numbers 21:6, NIV).
3. “bitten can look at it and live.’ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived” (Numbers 21:8-9, NIV).
4. “In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign....He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)” (II Kings 18:1, 3-4, NIV).

5. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Timothy 3:1-2, 4, KJV).

#### C. No Other Master

1. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18, NIV).
- 2 "He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)" (II Kings 18:4, NIV).

### II. THE GOD FACTOR

1. "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (I Timothy 6:17, NIV).

#### A. Be Rich in Good Deeds

1. "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds" (I Timothy 6:18, NIV).
2. "But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.'  
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.  
...You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?"  
(James 2:18, 20).
3. "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17, NIV).
4. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you" (Proverbs 23:7, NIV).

#### B. Be Generous

1. "Command them...to be generous and willing to share" (I Timothy 6:18, NIV).
2. "For he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. 'Eat and drink,' he says to you, but his heart is not with you" (Proverbs 23:7-8, NIV).
3. "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back" (Luke 6:38, NLT).

#### C. Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

1. "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (I Timothy 6:19, NIV).

### CONCLUSION

1. "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money" (Matthew 6:24, NLT).
2. "Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, 'I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you'" (Hebrews 13:5, MSG).