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Chapter 3 presented the choice between God and mammon. Chapter 5 explains that choosing to serve God means accepting His structure of truth and teachings, and lays out some of those teachings. Those who choose to follow Jesus will obey His teachings; those who reject Him will disobey His teachings.

Read Chapter 5: “Do I View Money and Possessions as Jesus Did?” (pp. 31-37).

Reading for Understanding

Answer each question.

1. What is the irony in Jesus' question in Luke 6:46, which is quoted at the beginning of the chapter?

2. What do we accept when we accept Jesus? _____
3. Based on the textbook, what should we learn from sports about Jesus' teachings?

4. What reference points often counteract Scriptural teaching about wealth and giving?

-  5. According to Luke 18:23, why did Jesus' instructions bring sorrow to the ruler?

-  6. According to Luke 21:4, why did Jesus say the poor widow had given more than the others?

- ☐ 7. What are some ways you or your peers could be tempted to display covetousness?

- ☐ 8. Why do you think we are more likely to admire a wealthy person than the poor widow with her offering?

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

9. What is the best description of developing a passion for truth?
 - a. Studying the Bible and obeying it.
 - b. Learning how to recognize false teaching.
 - c. Longing to persuade many people to believe truth.
 - d. Studying the Bible to prepare for a debate on end-time views.
10. Which example is *not* a good way to learn about Jesus' view on money?
 - a. Jesus' response to the rich young ruler
 - b. Jesus' followers in most American churches
 - c. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount
 - d. Jesus' comment about the widow and her two mites
11. Why is covetousness harder to deal with in the church than other sins?
 - a. Covetousness is very difficult to overcome.
 - b. Covetousness is mainly a sin of the heart and is therefore hard to recognize.
 - c. American culture tempts us with covetousness, so we are all tempted with it.
 - d. We have become so used to our society's views of wealth that covetousness is difficult for us to discern.

 **Read 1 Timothy 6:3-9. Write *true* or *false* beside each statement. If the statement is false, explain why it is false.**

12. a. _____ The truth is that gain is godliness.
b. _____
13. a. _____ We should be content with food and clothes.
b. _____
14. a. _____ We should distance ourselves from greedy people.
b. _____
15. a. _____ We should pursue both material gain and spiritual growth.
b. _____
16. a. _____ Wanting to be rich is acceptable if we don't actually become rich.
b. _____

Match each statement with the value system it illustrates.

- a. Clothes make a person attractive.
- b. Doing with less than the best is stinginess.
- c. Money spent on extra features is money well-spent.
- d. Good stewardship is spending less than the people around me.

17. _____ “You look good in that shirt.”
18. _____ “I spend only a few dollars on fireworks each year, not several hundred like my neighbor.”
19. _____ “He’s too tight to buy a decent kayak, so there he goes with his knees sticking out the top.”
20. _____ “My new bike has great suspension, a light frame, and grippy brakes. I recommend it to everyone.”

Proverb for the Day

“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity” (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Chapter 1 referred to the illusion of materialism. It would seem that if a person loved a thing, then that thing would satisfy him. However, today’s proverb states that to a person who loves silver, no amount is ever enough. Materialism simply does not deliver the satisfaction it promises. It is an illusion.

Complete this exercise.

- 21. Describe an experience where you or someone you know finally obtained something long desired, but it did not satisfy as expected.
