

Thankswanting

Part 1: Tell Me What You Want
November 18 & 19, 2017
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The Big Question:

How are your finances going into 2018?

“The borrower is the slave to the lender”
– Proverbs 22:7

thanks•want•ing *n.*

The season from Black Friday to Christmas when we spend dollars we don't have to purchase things we don't need, sometimes for people we don't even like.

Resisting Thankswanting

1. Failing to plan is planning to fail

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. – Proverbs 16:3

Christmas Shopping Strategy

- Budget
- Make a plan
- Celebrate 2018 with freedom

2. Greed is never content

Greed is sneaky because we can't see it in ourselves!

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Matthew 6:22-24

3. Joy comes from Jesus and it can't be bought .

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. - James 1:2

Joy is a state of being; happiness is an emotion.

There's no joy in money, only temporary happiness that quickly fades.

Challenge

Thankswanting or Thanksgiving.

Which will you choose?

Small Group Questions

- 1) What are your family traditions during the holidays? Which do you like the most?
- 2) Do you know anyone you would characterize as greedy? What reveals to you that they're greedy?
- 3) It was stated that greed is hard to see in ourselves. According to what you hear about others, are you greedy at all?
- 4) Read Romans 13:8, Hebrews 13:5, and Matthew 6:24. What are these verses telling us about our consumerism and debt crisis in America today?
- 5) One of the challenges from the message was not to go into debt over the holidays. What plans have you used in the past to help you achieve this?
- 6) Pray and commit whatever you do over the holidays to the Lord. Ask him to establish your plans and be your wisdom as you shop!