

# Greedy Grouches and Generous Givers

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15, I Timothy 6:17-19

March 16, 2008

## 1. Lean-In: Introduction Questions

Fill in the blank: If “only” I had \_\_\_\_\_, I’d be happy. Are you finding it difficult to limit yourself to one thing? Go ahead, make a list. Make out your “golden wish list.” List all the things you wish you could afford to buy or want to do.

## 2. Look Down: Observation Questions

- a. What warning does Ecc. 5:10-15 give us regarding money and wealth? Will wealth make you happy, more secure, more important? Will accumulated wealth make your life more meaningful and significant in the end?
  
- b. What command does I Timothy 6:17-19 give to “those who are rich?” (Who are the “rich”?) What is the given reason for this command and what is the result of obeying the command?

## 3. Look Out: Understanding Questions

Ivan Boesky, who later went to prison and paid a \$100 Million fine for insider trading, once said at a graduation ceremony of the School of Business Administration of the University of California, Berkeley, *“Greed is all right, by the way. I want you to know that. I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself.”* How do you think that was received? Isn’t it OK to pursue the American Dream “...life, liberty, and the purchase of happiness? Are there any voices or models in our present society that shun greed and materialism and inspire us to seek a simpler and content lifestyle?

## 4. Look In: the Application Questions

What does it take to transform a Greedy Grouch into a Generous Giver? Where in your life does greed and consumption still have a grip on you? Are you willing to trust that the disciplines of simplicity and generosity will actually bring you more contentment and fulfillment in life...“the life that is truly life” (I Tim. 6:19b)?

If you had 30 minutes to evacuate your house because it was going to be consumed in a wildfire, what would you pack up in your car to take with you? How much would you be leaving behind? What can you do without?