"Conquering Materialism"
Matthew 6:19-34

C.I.T.—Conquering materialism requires Kingdom giving.
C.I.S.—We can conquer materialism through Kingdom giving.
Purpose—I want to help our people overcome materialism through Kingdom giving.
Introduction— Xiao Li—Shanzen, China—coma with 100 yuan

I. ***Materialism's Curse*** vs. 19-24
   a. Command not to invest in materialism
      i. Do not/better understood as "stop"
      ii. Store up—invest, entrust
      iii. Treasures on earth vs heaven
      iv. Investing in things on earth refers to materialism
      v. Investing in things of heaven refers to kingdom giving at the least
   b. Perishable
      i. While a banking system did exist, treasures were usually buried or stored inside someone's home.
      ii. This allows for rot through moth or rust.
      iii. It also made treasure susceptible to theft
      iv. In heaven, there is not destruction, things invested there are eternal.
   c. Directs
      i. Where your treasure is, so is your heart.
      ii. Insinuates that your heart will follow your treasure—if someone has skin in the game, they will have more concern than if they do not.
      iii. Metaphor of the lamp of the eye—point is that whatever the eye sees, the body will reflect.
      iv. Wherever your money is, reflects your heart, but ultimately will determine where your heart is.
   d. Exclusive
      i. Idea of a slave serving two masters.
      ii. While we may have two bosses (married men with a job know what I am talking about!), a slave cannot have two slave owners.
      iii. You will have to prioritize one over the other.
      iv. Wherever you treasure is will dictate the decisions that you make.
      v. Do I go to church or do I attend this travel ball tournament or make this hunting trip to the lease that I spend $1,000s a year?
   e. Illus.—Parable of the Rich Fool—**Luke 12:13-21**
   f. Application
      i. Foolishly entrust their lives to materialism.
      ii. Materialism will dictate your life.
      iii. The curse is that once you place your heart here, you become enslaved.
      iv. If you trust in materialism, you will are trusting in something that doesn't last and cannot save.

II. ***Materialism's Cause*** vs. 25-30
   a. Command not to worry
      i. Anxiety associated with supplying basic needs.
      ii. Eat/drink/clothing/shelter, etc.
      iii. Life is more than basic necessities
   b. We have a Father to take care of us.
      i. Metaphor of the Father's provision for the birds
      ii. Metaphor of the wildflowers

iii. As a believer, you are a child of God, and He has taken the responsibility as a Father to take care of His children.
iv. We do not have to worry, because our Father will take care of us.

c. You of little faith.
i. The fact that we have worry communicates that we don't trust the Father to provide.
ii. If we don't trust in the Father to provide, then we must provide for ourselves, and we does so through materialism.

d. Illus.—Rich Young Ruler—**Matthew 19:16-22**

e. Application
i. Ultimately, materialism stems from a lack of faith.
ii. It is not an economic or math problem, but a spiritual problem.
iii. When we engage in materialism, we are revealing that we have a spiritual issue that needs to be addressed.
iv. When we come to Christ, we not only trust Him with our eternity, but also with our right now.

III. ***Materialism's Cure***—vs. 31-34

a. Don't worry and trust in materialism, like the Gentiles do (who don't have a Father).

b. Seek first His kingdom
i. Through time and money.
ii. This will trigger God to act and provide as He has promised.

c. The best way to ensure that your family will be taken care of is to make it a priority to invest in the kingdom of God.
i. Make a commitment to prioritize kingdom giving.--Old Testament principle of the tithe.
ii. Make decisions to cut unneeded expenditures.
iii. Get out of debt.
iv. Give above and beyond to freewill offerings.

d. Illus.—**Proverbs 3: 9-10**

e. Application
i. When you prioritize kingdom giving, you ensure that God will take care of your.
ii. This in turn will alleviate the pressure and anxiety of providing for yourself.
iii. This in turn will free you from materialism.
iv. Which in turn will free you from the slavery of materialism and unto worshipping the Lord.

Conclusion

- So many of us are in a spiritual coma, caused by materialism.
- The answer is not to wave money under our noses, but to commit to Kingdom giving.

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; [10] then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

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Luke 12:13 Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." [14] "Friend," he said to him, "who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you?" [15] He then told them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions." [16] Then he told them a parable: "A rich man's land was very productive. [17] He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops? [18] I will do this,' he said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. [19] Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." ' [20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared-- whose will they be? ' [21] "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Matthew 19:16 Just then someone came up and asked him, "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?" [17] "Why do you ask me about what is good?" he said to him. "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." [18] "Which ones?" he asked him. Jesus answered: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; [19] honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself. [20] "I have kept all these," the young man told him. "What do I still lack?" [21] "If you want to be perfect," Jesus said to him, "go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." [22] When the young man heard that, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

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I. Materialism’s C_____
II. Materialism’s C_____
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