

SHINY OBJECTS | Forgive Us Our Debts | Week 2

May 19, 2019

Phil 4:12-13; Haggai 1:5-6; Deut 28:12-14; Matt 6:33; Rom 13:7-8

Opening: In this series we pursue the following premise and question: “I am someone genuinely interested in living my life according to the principles and priorities that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. But I am also attracted to SHINY OBJECTS. Surrounded by all that glitters in American society, all that beckons and begs me to make IT the source of my security, status, and significance, I get **distracted** from God and the abundant life that He intends to which I want to be **devoted**.” Am I alone in this?

Context: Americans love freedom. We make our right to do our own thing nearly a god. That’s the issue we pursue here. Pilate asked Jesus “what is truth?”, likewise we might ask “what is freedom?”. *As we consider today Money, Work and Debt, what comes to mind regarding freedom?*

Distraction of Attitude: Pastor Rick Glyman opens with a story of innocent distraction. Where something not hideous or evil gets in the way, blinds us, distracts us from our stated goal of abundant life. *How might that affect you today? Read Phil 4: 12-13. What tension do you feel with abundant life and this passage?*

A Money Instruction: Read Haggai 1: 5-6. *What is the meaning as a general instruction on money? What is the opposite?*

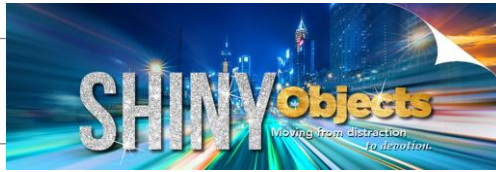
God’s Desire and Perspective: Read Deut 28: 12-14. Pastor Glyman highlights these points about God’s desire for us:

- Not enslaved (just released from Egypt)
- Sufficient provision (well stocked storehouse)
- Helping others (lend to many)
- Free from debt (borrow from none)
- Leading, calling the shots (head not the tail)

What is the contingent “if” in vs. 14? What does that mean for us today?

Money, a Known Distraction: Pastor Glyman cited one-sixth of text of the four gospels concerns money and one-third of parables. *Why do you think Jesus made such a lesson out of money? How do you keep money “in perspective” in your life? What is the battleground?*

Money in Relationship: Gallup poll says 64% of couples fight over money and 54% of divorces are over money. *How do you handle money in your relationship? What have you learned?*



A Spiritual Discipline?: Read Matt 6:33. Pastor Glyman makes the point “those who exercise the simple financial discipline of TITHING also have financial discipline in their other money decisions”. *What attitude do you see in the practice of tithing?*

Work: Read Gen 2:15, Prov 12:11 and 14:23. Pastor Glyman states “Work is God’s only means and design to provide for human needs”. *How do you respond to this statement?*

Identity: *Where is the line between devotion and distraction? Talk about the work distraction and the ways you fight to keep focus on the abundant life that He intends?*

Debt: Read Rom 13: 7-8. Pastor Glyman closes with a litany of statistics about debt. He differentiates between investment debt and consumer debt. *How do you relate debt and freedom? Talk about what you have learned in your past or present situation, it may help others in the group.*

Practice of the Week: Am I distracted here?

Read Matt 6:19-21. Continuing on with our meditation of Matthew 6, consider Money, Work and Debt (in terms of what the debt was used for). Consider each one individually and ask God to show you if there is distraction there. As it says in James 1 “ask God for wisdom”. Ask for the attitude, the discipline, the belief to turn the distraction into devotion. Ask God to speak to you.

Family Formation: Prayer Wall

What can we pray about? This week we want to set a new practice that will help in the future. This has come through some young couples at Christ Church and is a fantastic idea. Set a corkboard up in the kitchen with index cards and thumbtacks available. Ask the kids to write prayer requests on the cards and post them on the board. If you need to you can help them write. You can add your prayer requests about distraction and devotion. Now we have a better answer for “What can we pray about”.

Additional Resources: [*Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*](#) (Penguin, 2009) Tim Keller

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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