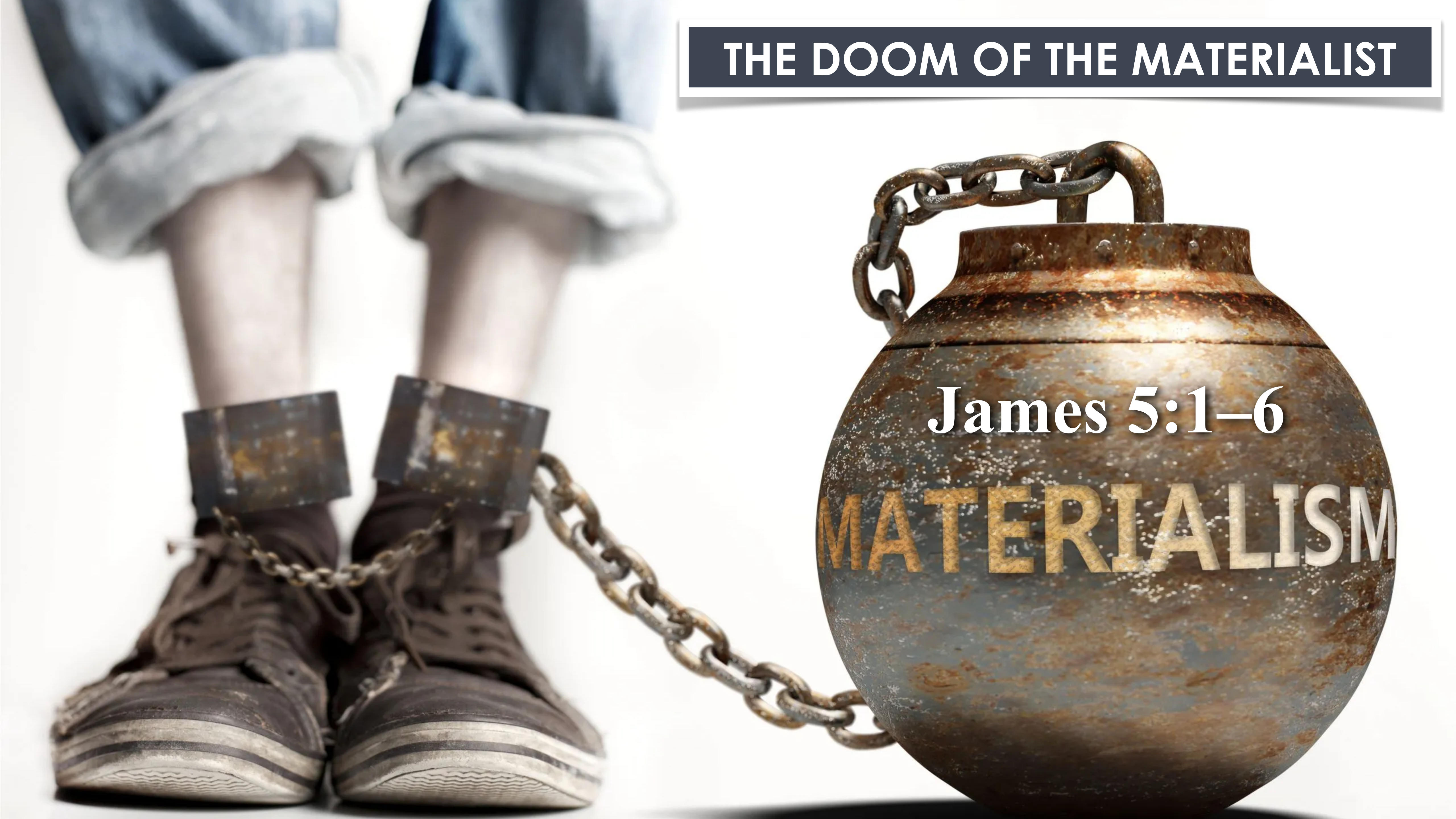


THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

James 5:1–6

MATERIALISM



James 5:1–6 (NKJV)

¹ Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you*! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

WARNING TO THE WEALTHY (5:1)

James 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ Come now, *you*
rich, weep and howl
for your miseries
that are coming
upon *you*!

- **The DANGER of wealth** (2:5-7; Amos 3:10; 5:11; 8:4-7; Pr. 11:28; 18:11; 30:9; 1 Tim 6:6-10; Col. 3:5)
- Rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-27)
- Rich man & Lazarus (Luke 16:25; Amos 6:4-6)
- Greedy rich man (Luke 12:12-21; cf Matt. 6:25-33)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

WARNING TO THE WEALTHY (5:1)

James 5:1
(NKJV)

¹ Come now, *you*
rich, weep and howl
for your miseries
that are coming
upon *you!*

- Probably the rich Jewish landowners in Judea (1:10; 2:2,6,7)
- They were deceived, blinded, or ignorant of their approaching doom (5:1; 1:11; Luke 6:24; 18:24)
- Wealth, in and of itself, is NOT wrong, but “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

WARNING TO THE WEALTHY (5:1)

James 5:1
(NKJV)

¹ Come now, *you*
rich, weep and howl
for your miseries
that are coming
upon *you*!

● **Why condemned? (5:1)**

- Hoarded their wealth (vv. 2-3);
- With-held wages from those who worked for them (v. 4);
- Luxurious self-indulgence (v. 5);
- Murdered the innocent and helpless (v. 6).

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

MATERIAL RICHES WILL BE LOST (5:2,3)

James 5:2,3a
(NKJV)

² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded,

- The **TEMPORARY** nature of earthly riches (Mat 6:19-21; 1 Jn 2:15-17)
 - What will happen to their (our) land and possessions? (Luke 12:18-21)
 - What will become of their (our) fine apparel? (Luke 16:19)
 - What will happen to their (our) money? (1 Pet 1:18; 2 Pet 3:10-12; 1 Jn 2:15-17)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

MATERIAL RICHES CAN CAUSE US TO BE LOST (5:3)

**James 5:3b
(NKJV)**

³ ...and their corrosion
will be a witness
against you and will
eat your flesh like fire.
You have heaped up
treasure in the last
days.

- Wealth can be a form of **POISON** - Like the tongue, it can be used for much good, but it can, and so often does, bring much misery (3:8; 1 Tim. 6:9,10)
- Wealth may be perceived as a great gift, but it can also turn out to be our greatest curse, (King Midas) (Luke 18:24; Mark 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:9,10; Mat. 27:3–5. Ac. 5:4, 5; 8:20. 2 Pe. 2:3).

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

MATERIAL RICHES CAN CAUSE US TO BE LOST (5:3)

James 5:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

- Laborers not paid - because the rich cheated them. (what are some ways the rich might cheat employees today?)
- The cheated laborers suffered & “cry out” to the “Lord of Sabaoth” = the “LORD of Host”
- The cries of injustice have not gone unnoticed by God.

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

MATERIAL RICHES CAN CAUSE US TO BE LOST (5:3)

James 5:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

- A contrast between what the indulgent and selfish are enjoying in the present as opposed to what awaits them in eternity (cf. Luke 16:25)
- Their wealth had provided food for their stomach, but had also blinded their hearts to the things of God and their future demise (Isaiah 6:10; Matt. 13:15; Acts 28:27; Rom. 11:8; Jn. 12:40)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

MATERIAL RICHES CAN CAUSE US TO BE LOST (5:3)

James 5:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

- The wealthy aristocrats had the power to do whatever they wished, and the poor were powerless to withstand them.
- The wealthy used their influence and power to condemn innocent men who could offer no resistance (James 2:6; cf. Ahab - 1 Kings 21:1-15)
- Temporal justice for the “JUST” was not likely (cf. Mat. 23:37; Acts 3:14; 7:52; etc.)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

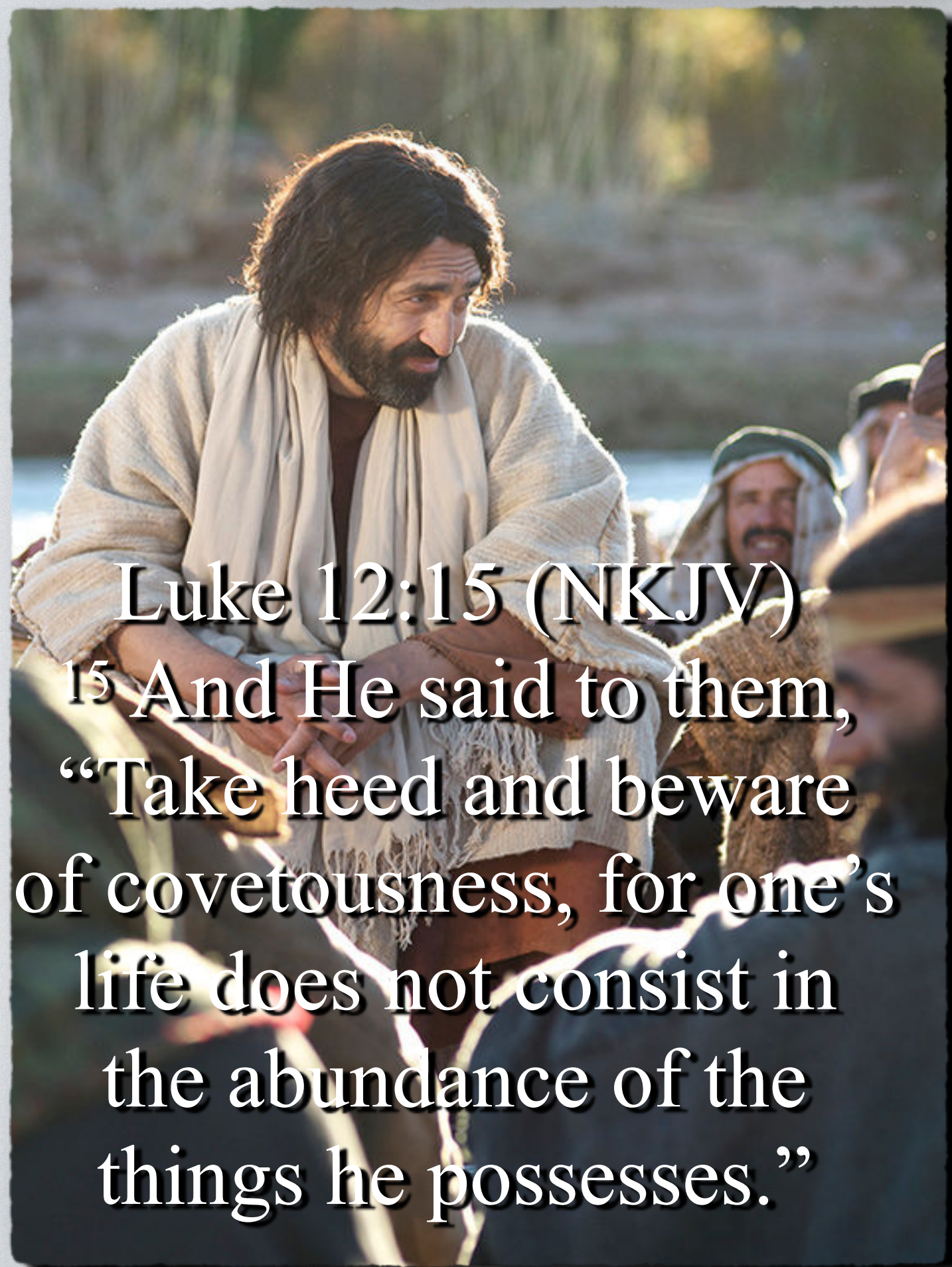
BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS



Luke 12:15 (NKJV)
15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

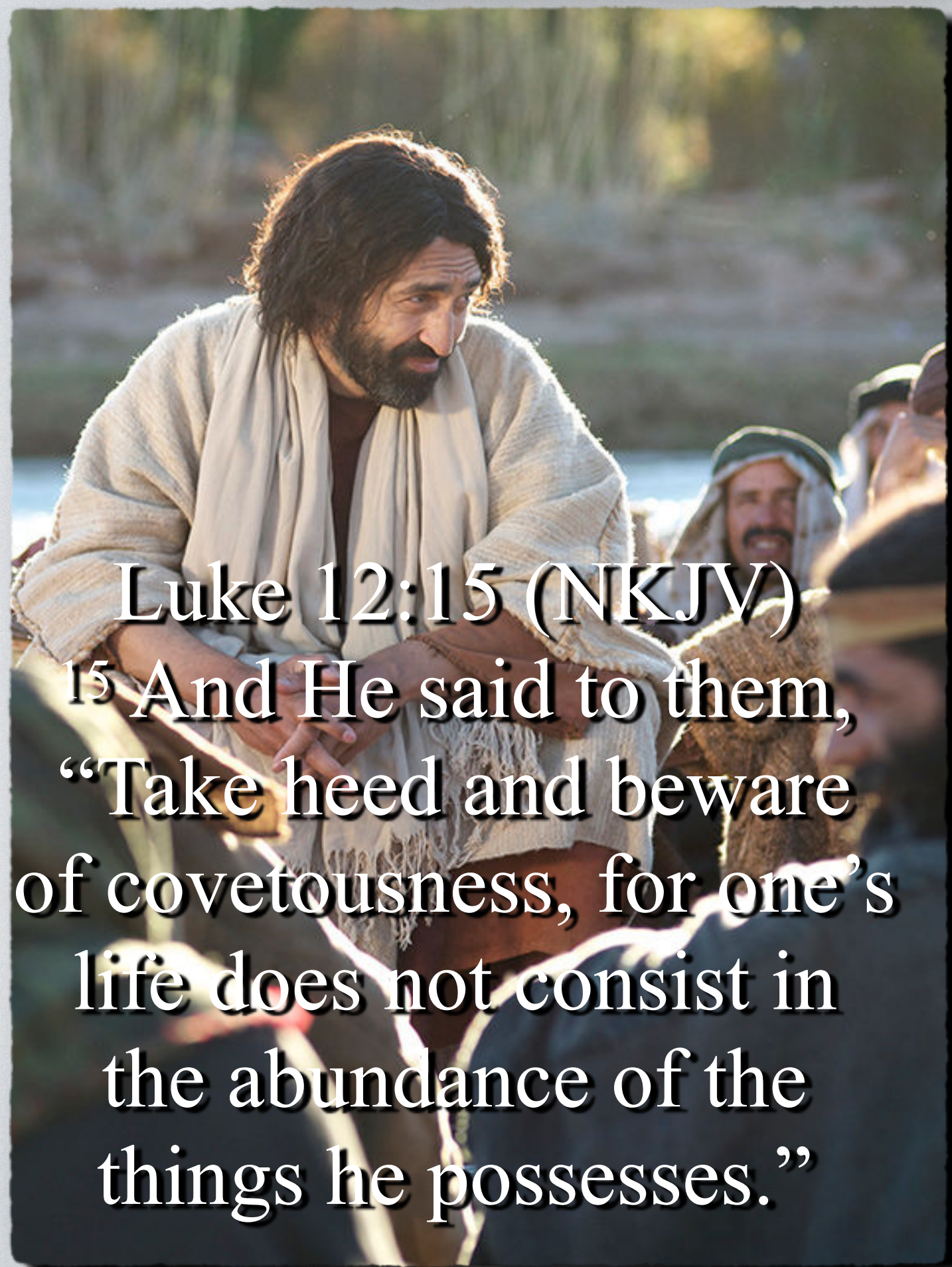
BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS



- Greed, Not WEALTH itself, but the attitude & use of what one has (1 Tim. 6:10, 17)
- Greed is like drinking salt water — the more we drink, the thirstier we get (Eccl. 5:10; 6:7)
- Greed is idolatry (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS



Luke 12:16–21 (NKJV)

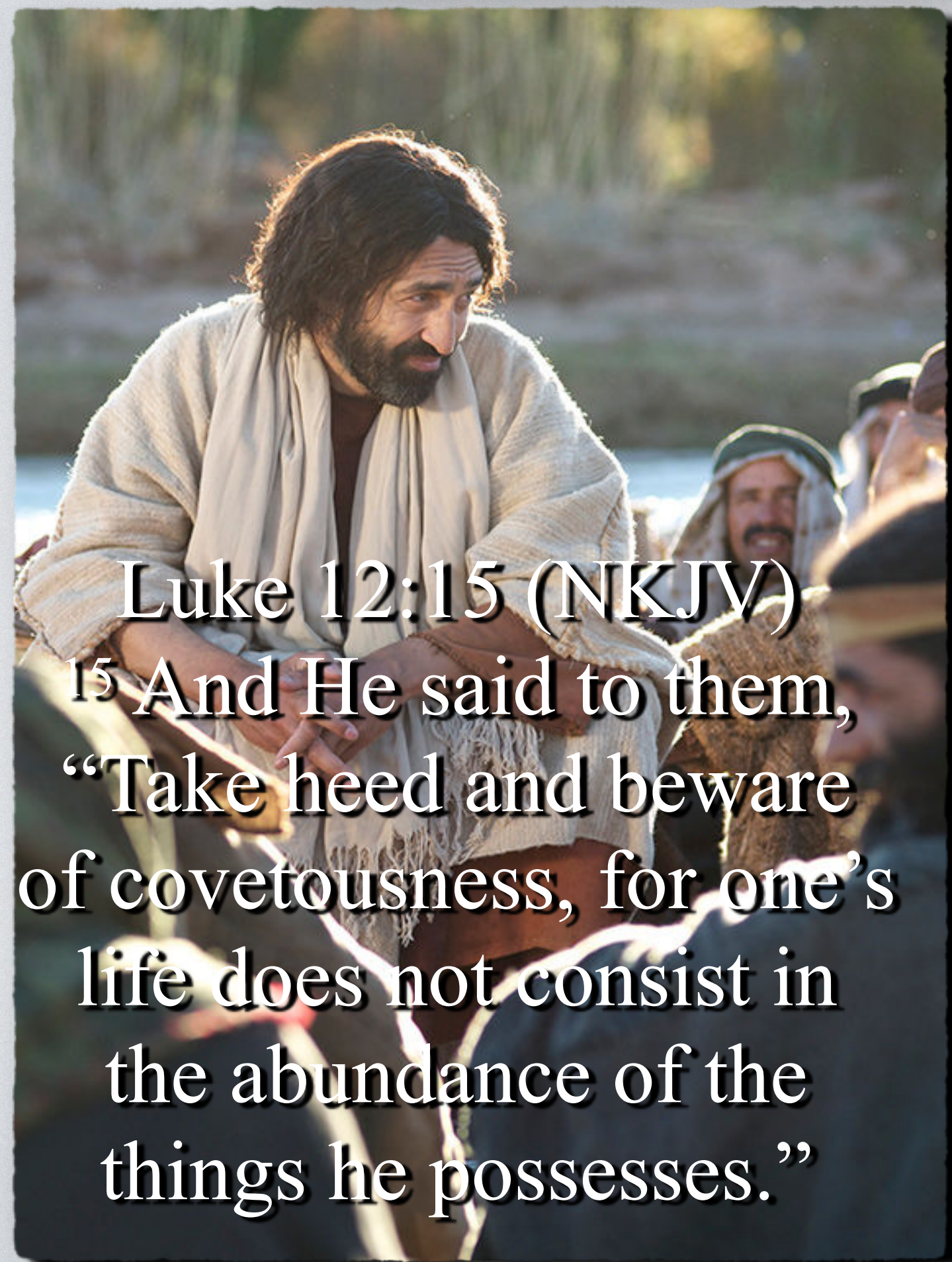
¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

Luke 12:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS



Luke 12:16–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” ’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

Luke 12:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS

Luke 12:16–21 (NKJV)

21 “*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*”

(cf. Mat. 6:19-34)

Luke 12:15 (NKJV)

15 And He said to them,
“Take heed and beware
of covetousness, for one’s
life does not consist in
the abundance of the
things he possesses.”

**DO WE VIEW OUR BLESSINGS
AS RESPONSIBILITIES?**

(Jam. 4:17; Luke 16:10–12; 1 Tim 6:17-19)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

ARE WE “RICH” TOWARDS GOD?

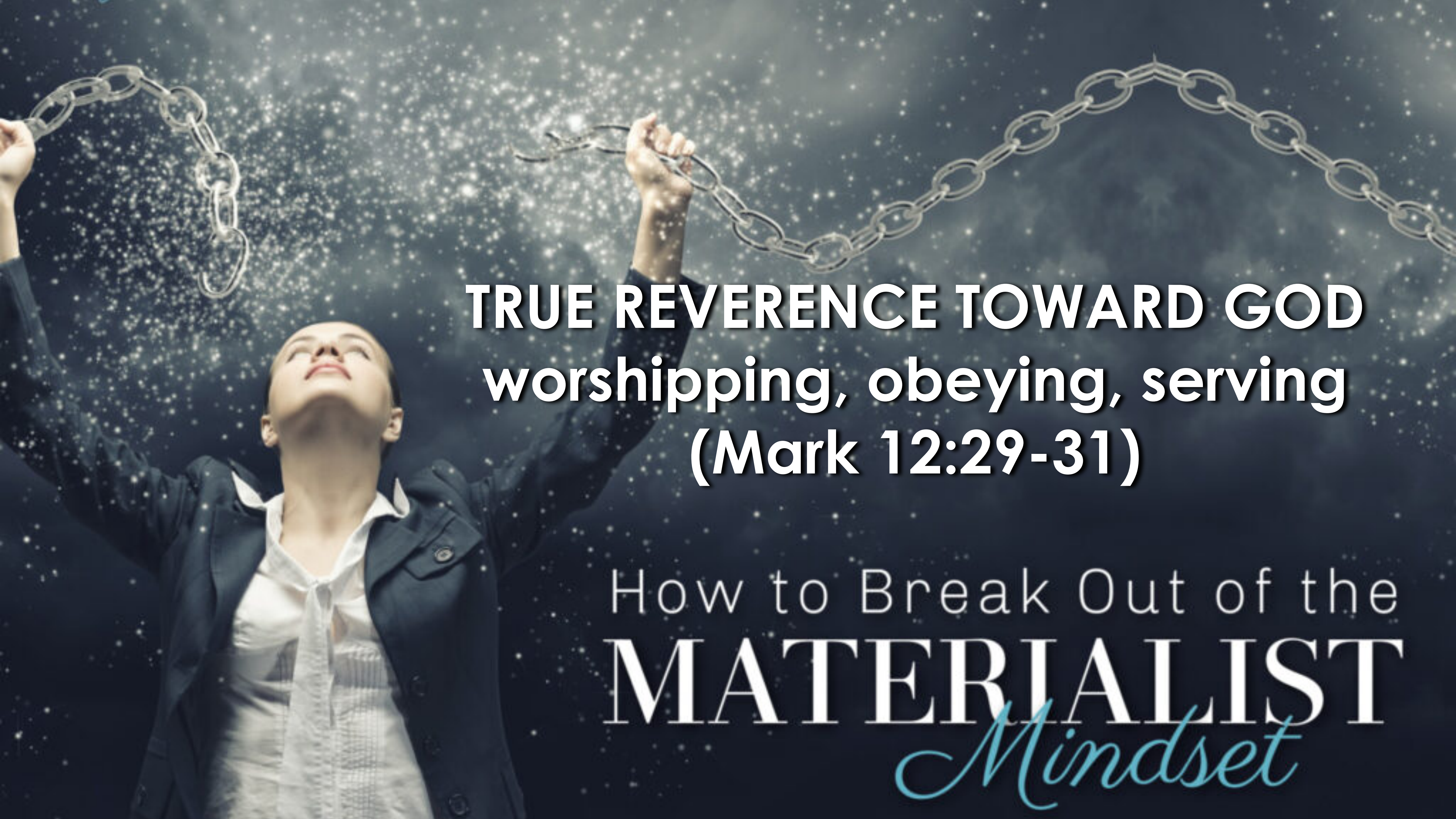


- **USING** our material BLESSINGS to serve? (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:11-14)
- **GIVING** our material BLESSINGS for God's work? (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 8,9)
- **USING** our material BLESSINGS to help those in need? (2 Cor. 9:8; James 1:27; 2:14-26; Titus 3:14)




**REALIZE & EMBRACE WHAT
GOD HAS PROVIDED IN CHRIST
(Eph. 1:3-14; Gal. 3:26-29)**

How to Break Out of the
MATERIALIST
Mindset

A woman in a dark blue business suit and white shirt is shown from the waist up, looking upwards with her arms raised. She is holding two broken metal chains, one in each hand. The chains are arched above her head, forming a frame. The background is a dark, starry sky with many small, bright white stars. The overall mood is one of liberation and spiritual aspiration.


TRUE REVERENCE TOWARD GOD
worshipping, obeying, serving
(Mark 12:29-31)

How to Break Out of the
MATERIALIST
Mindset

A woman in a dark blue business suit and white shirt is shown from the waist up, looking upwards with her arms raised. She is holding two broken metal chains, one in each hand. The chains are arched above her head, forming a frame. The background is a dark, starry sky with many small, bright white stars. The overall mood is one of liberation and hope.

TRULY PUTTING THE KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST (Mat. 6:33)

How to Break Out of the
MATERIALIST
Mindset

A woman in a dark blue business suit and white shirt is shown from the waist up, looking upwards with her arms raised. She is holding two broken metal chains, one in each hand. The chains are arched above her head, forming a large 'V' shape. The background is a dark, starry sky with many small, bright white stars. The overall mood is one of liberation and hope.

TRULY LOVING OTHERS -
sharing, helping, encouraging
(1 Pet 1:22; Heb 10:24; Gal. 6:10)

How to Break Out of the
MATERIALIST
Mindset

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

- Those who love riches will weep & howl in misery (1)
- All earthly possessions will rot, be destroyed & become worthless (2,3)
- The Lord will take vengeance on the wicked (4) cf. Jer. 22:13; Luke 18:7; Rom 12:19; 2 Thes 1:6-10



James 5:1–6

MATERIALISM

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

ARE WE “RICH” TOWARDS GOD?



Either we are laying up treasure
ON EARTH OR IN HEAVEN!

(Mat. 6:19-24)

Are YOU Prepared For Eternity?

ARE YOU IN CHRIST?

(Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27)

THE DOOM OF THE MATERIALIST

James 5:1–6

Charts by Don McClain

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1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17-19 (NKJV)

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.