

The Greedy Cannot Stand God

1. Paul Is Harassed Many Days By a Demon-Possessed Girl.

2. Casting Out Her Demon Costs Her Masters Much Gain.

3. The Missionaries Are Beaten with Many Blows.

CONCLUSION: We saw last week how God worked in Lydia and her whole household changed their loyalty to Jesus through receiving baptism into His name. In this passage we see a very different household using slavery for great gain and that responds to the good news of Jesus with violence rather than humility. This contrast helps us to understand the true nature of Christ's Kingdom and the spiritual forces that stand opposed to it. Let us trust Christ with everything and experience the freedom of truly serving Him entirely.

Luke 16: 10 – 15

“One who is **faithful** in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? **No servant can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

The Pharisees, who were **lovers of money**, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but *God knows your hearts*. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Psalms 10: 1 – 18

Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “*There is no God.*”

His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;

throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent.

His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.

He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “*You will not call to account?*”

But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,

that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself;

you have been the helper of the fatherless.

Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will
incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Lydia's trust in Jesus leads her to offer generous hospitality to the missionaries. Here the masters of the slave girl are driven by greed to oppose the gospel and those who bring it just like the demon who brings them much gain.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 16:16-24; First Timothy 6:6-10; Luke 16:10-15**. DISCUSS, What contrasts do you see between Lydia's faithful household and the slave masters here? How do they each respond to the gospel? PRAY "Jesus, Thank You for being enough for us. You have shown us through Your *faithfulness* that we can trust You totally!"

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Gen 14:17-24; Isaiah 14:12-23**. DISCUSS, Over what does the Most High reign? "Day Star" is a title of Satan. How does Satan's envy of God's possessions drive him to rebellion? Contentment is the fruit of trust in Christ. How are you nurturing contentment in your heart? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, "Lord, You are the God Most High. Everything is Yours as it *should* be. Forgive us for wanting more than You have ordained for us."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; 19:23-28; Esther 3:7-11**. DISCUSS, Both here in Philippi and later in Ephesus greed is concealed by invoking civic pride and blaming the Jews. How are racism and patriotism used to stir up the crowd? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You that You are the Lord of all peoples and Your Kingdom is above every nation. Teach us to act accordingly always."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 4:31-37**. DISCUSS, How did the demons in this passage react? Why? How do people typically take a threat to their livelihood? How *should* faith in Christ change this? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, “Jesus, equip us for this spiritual battle!”

Thursday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Psalm 10:1-18**. DISCUSS, This passage in Acts ends with Paul and Silas in prison. They could certainly relate to Psalm 10. How can we know that “the Lord is King forever” in the midst of His people being beaten and imprisoned? How is our faith in Christ emboldening us now? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, “Lord, enable us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth.”

Friday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; First Timothy 6:6-10; Luke 16:10-15**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY for faithfulness at FCCW and revival throughout the area.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 15:40-16:40**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

First Timothy 6: 6 – 10

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.