Pitfall #4: Problems With Materialism

David Banning · Luke 8:4–15 · Series: **Family**

INTRODUCTION

- The seed which fell among the thorns. These are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way, they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to maturity.
- In the cluttered heart, the seed of God is planted and even to some degree grows. The problem is that within this heart there are just too many other things.
- We have a tremendous pitfall with the problem of materialism around which we must teach our children to navigate.

1 The Most Important Thing Is Our Relationship With God

Matthew 6:19; Luke 16:19–23; Ecclesiastes 12:13

- We need to be convicted that the most important thing in life is our relationship with God.
- We need to teach our children that material possessions don't last.
- We must also teach our children that material things are not going to enhance their standing before God.
- When you boil it all down, here's what matters. Fear God and keep his commandments.

2 Lust for Wealth Destines Us to Get Into Trouble

1 Timothy 6:9–10

- When we lust for wealth and for money and possessions, we are destined to get into trouble.
- For those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
- Our work is eating up our time with our families.
- Credit card debt, most of the time, is the epitome of materialistic thinking.

3 Material Things Are Never Going to Satisfy Us

Philippians 4:11–12

- We need to be convicted that material things are never going to satisfy us.
- That day never comes. If it's material things we want, we'll never have enough of them.
- What has to change is not how much we have, but our attitude toward what we have.
- For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

4 Model These Convictions Before Our Children

- We simply must model these convictions before our children. Parental example becomes critical in these processes.
- My kids need to see me nourish my relationship with God through prayer and Bible study.

- If we want our kids to grow up believing that their relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing, then it's got to be the most important thing to us.

5 Make Spiritual Things a Priority in Our Home

Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 10:25

- We need to make sure that spiritual things are a priority in our home.
- We need to make sure that Bible class lessons are more important than schoolwork at our house.
- Every parent needs to have some kind of plan for your children to spend time with God's word every day.
- We need to teach our children the priority of spiritual things by having an unbroken habit of worshiping with God's people.

6 Don't Give Your Kids Everything They Want

- Kids need to get used to the idea that sometimes we have to say no to our desires and the things that we want.
- Teach them the principle that we have to wait, and we have to earn money and we have to save for the things that we want.
- I don't want my kids to learn the principle of instant gratification.

THE CHALLENGE

I want to test your convictions this morning. If you really believe that's the most important thing, what are you going to do about it?

MY NOTES