

SMASHING OUR *American Idols*

3. “In God We Tru\$t”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

Brian Fox

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Sermon Notes

Our American Idols are PEOPLE, POSITIONS, POSSESSIONS, OR PLEASURES THAT WE PURSUE IN PLACE OF GOD **And ALL IDOLS MUST BE SMASHED**

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.¹⁵ He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight. Luke 16:13-15

The Idol of Money HIDES BEHIND COMPARISON, ENTITLEMENT, AND THE FEAR OF DEPENDENCE

I. Luke 19:1-2 Evaluate your Identity

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

Money IS AN UNRELIABLE SOURCE OF WORTH OR IDENTITY

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” Hebrews 13:5-6

II. Luke 19:3-6

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

Money CAN NEVER SATISFY THE HEART’S DEEPEST DESIRE

The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow. ¹¹ But you, man of God, run away from all those things. Instead, live in the right way, serve God, have faith, love, patience, and gentleness. 1Timothy 6:10 NCV

III. Luke 19:7-10 - Generosity

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Money THAT BELONGS TO GOD WILL NOT OWN US And IS ENJOYABLE TO GIVE AWAY

Command those who are rich with things of this world not to be proud. Tell them to hope in God, not in their uncertain riches. God richly gives us everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ Tell the rich people to do good, to be rich in doing good deeds, to be generous and ready to share. ¹⁹ By doing that, they will be saving a treasure for themselves as a strong foundation for the future. Then they will be able to have the life that is true life. 1Timothy 6:17-19