

The Perils of Possessions

by John Henry Jowett

The sermon discusses the dangers of wealth, highlighting its potential to divide and tempt, while emphasizing reliance on God's protection.

Scripture: Psalm 37:16, Proverbs 11:28, Matthew 6:24, 1 Timothy 6:10, James 5:1

Topics: "Wealth And Greed", "Spiritual Protection"

Description

John Henry Jowett preaches about the divisive nature of wealth, highlighting how riches can lead to alienation within families and the awakening of hidden vices. Success often breeds selfishness, envy, jealousy, and other negative traits, increasing temptations and challenges. Despite the dangers of prosperity, God can protect us from its harmful effects, as seen in the example of Abram who remained unscathed and close to God even as his wealth grew.

Transcript

GENESIS xiii. 1-9.

There is nothing more divisive than wealth. As families grow rich their members frequently become alienated. It is rarely, indeed, that love increases with the increase of riches. Luxurious possessions appear to be a forcing-bed in which the seeds of sleeping vices waken into strength. For one thing, selfishness is often quickened with success. Plenty, as well as penury, can "freeze the genial currents of the soul." And with selfishness comes a whole brood of mean and petty dispositions. Envy comes with it, and jealousy, and a morbid sensitiveness which readily leaps into strife.

So do our possessions multiply our temptations. So does the bright day "bring forth the adder." So do we need extra defences when "fortune smiles

upon us." But our God can make us proof against "the fiery darts" of success. Abram remained unscathed in "the garish day." The Lord delivered him from "the destruction that wasteth at noonday." His wealth increased, but it was not allowed to force itself between his soul and God. In the midst of all his prosperity, he dwelt in "the secret place of the Most High," and he abode in "the shadow of the Almighty."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-henry-jowett/the-perils-of-possessions/>

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