

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 24, 2004

Passage: Habakkuk 2:9-14

Memory Passage: Luke 12:15

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:5-14. Mark every reference that seems to be related to greed, riches, or possessions. How was greed part of the motivation for the behavior of the Chaldeans (Babylonians)? (b) According to James 4:1-4, where do wars and strife come from? Do all wars begin for this reason? Explain your answer. (c) Read Habakkuk 2:6-7. What is the reason for this woe pronounced on Babylon? What are some various translations of “thick clay” and “shall bite” you? How are these pictures of the problem that the Chaldeans had with greed? (d) What warning does Proverbs 22:7 give? What did God command Israel in Deuteronomy 15:6 and 28:12? What testimony would they be giving about their God if they did not follow this? (e) What is God’s promise to his people in Philippians 4:19? How does greed cause us to go beyond His provisions? (f) Thank God for *all* He has given you. Ask Him to give you a heart that is satisfied with all His provisions.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:9-10. Why did they covet the things of other nations (Habakkuk 2:9)? (b) What were they trying to gain through their conquests – What picture does “set his nest on high” bring to mind (Habakkuk 2:9)? (c) What did God warn in Obadiah 1:4 and Jeremiah 49:16? How was their security a false security? Why are riches and possessions always a false security? (d) What warning is given in 1 Timothy 6:17-19? What is the way to protect yourself from this? (e) What does Ephesians 4:28 say should be our goal in our work? (f) Prayerfully review *your* giving to the Lord. Determine to make some changes today that will honor the Lord and protect you from covetousness.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:11-12. See what you can find out about the Babylonians and their interest in building (check any encyclopedia. Also see Daniel 4:28-30)? (b) What does God say the stones will do? Why (compare James 5:1-4)? (c) Read Luke 12:13-21. What attitude did the farmer have according to Luke 12:18-19? What did he forget? (d) What question did the rich farmer ask himself in verse 17? What would have been an appropriate answer (cp. 1 Timothy 6:17-19)? (e) Why did Jesus tell this parable—*who* was he trying to teach (verse 21)? What does he *then* teach *his disciples* in Luke 12:22-34? Can even disciples have a tendency toward covetousness? (f) In Luke 12:22-34, what are some things that we must do to protect ourselves from covetousness? (g) Ask the Lord to show you one way you can be *rich* toward God rather than toward yourself this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Matthew 6:19-24. Why is it useless to put your trust in riches? What will happen to them? (b) Why does Jesus speak to his disciples about the “*single eye*” in verse 23? Compare this with 1 John 1:15-17. (c) What does Jesus conclude about how our attitude toward riches affects our ability to serve God (verse 24)? (d) What similar warning does Paul give in 1 Timothy 6:8-10? What does Psalm 37:16-17 remind us? (e) Why should we be content (Hebrews 13:5-6; Psalm 63:3-7)? (f) Meditate on the Lord’s lovingkindness today. Praise Him because His lovingkindness is better than life!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:12-14. How did the desire for riches cause the Babylonians to treat others (also verse 8)? (b) What reminder does God give to Habakkuk in view of the greediness of the Chaldeans (Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 72:19)? (c) What do we learn about the glory of all men in 1 Peter 1:24? How does this compare with God’s glory? What happened to the glory of Babylon—where is it today? (d) Read Luke 18:24-20—does this mean rich people cannot go to heaven? What was Jesus teaching his disciples? (e) Read Habakkuk 2:4 again. What is wrong with the proud man? How should living by faith affect our view of riches and possessions? (f) Pray for someone today whose riches are a barrier to coming to Christ for salvation.

What have you learned about the life of faith and dangers of covetousness?

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The Grip of Greed

“Take heed and beware of every form of covetousness.”