

THE CONSUMPTION ASSUMPTION

Guardrails, Part 4

Matthew 6:24

Pastor Ken Ritz * Oct 2, 2011 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review of week one:

- Guardrail: **A personal standard of behavior, that becomes a matter of conscience.**
- Your greatest regret would probably have been avoided if you had guardrails in your life.
- You may need guardrails that protect you in areas of spending, eating or drinking, habits or addictions, working hours, internet, television, gambling, or any other area of life that might cause you to lose self-control.
- Sex and money are the two most important areas where people typically need guardrails... yet our culture tends to dismiss what scripture has to say in these areas.
- The reason God says so much about money (through the bible) has little to do with money, but has everything to do with our devotion.
- God's chief competition for our hearts is not the devil, but the acquisition and pursuit of money and possessions.

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.

Matthew 6:24

- Because God loves you and knows what is best for you, he wants your undivided focus, your whole heart.
- God wants to be your master, not your helper.

Life Has Financial Ditches On Each Side Of Our Road; We Need Guardrails For Each.

The ditch on one side has to do with _____ ("consumers").

The ditch on the other side has to do with _____ ("hoarders").

Consumers and Hoarders seem like opposites, but have two things in common.

1. They both live as if there is no God.
2. They are both motivated by Greed.

- Greed is almost impossible to see in the mirror.

Jesus' Definition Of Greed (Paraphrased):

The assumption that it's all for my consumption.

- Your consumption now, which makes you a consumer,
- or your consumption later, which makes you a hoarder.
- To most people God is like the "backup finance plan" for when their primary consumer or hoarder plan isn't going well.

The key to living as if god (not money) is master:

G_____, S_____, L_____

- Following "Give, Save, Live" establishes two guardrails in your life:
 - You won't go into the ditch of consuming everything
 - You won't go into the ditch of hoarding

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.

Matthew 6:24

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

- Because of the power of money, most people don't discover how to really trust God until "the bottom falls out" financially.

Summary Of Everything Above: It's not about money... it's about the undivided focus of your heart.

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*