

A Our priority. Luke 14:26-33.

- ❖ When riches and possessions become more important than our relationship with God, we succumb to materialism.
- ❖ If the desires of this world take all our attention, then we're building the "tower" of lives on the wrong foundation.

B Our desires.

❖ **The desires of the flesh [Ambition]. Luke 12:15-21.**

- God gives us material blessings, strength to gain them and the ability to properly use them.
- Nevertheless, the desire of having things may become more important than the most important thing: our eternal life.
- God gives us material blessings that we are able to administer, and He tells us: "Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 8:14 NLT).

❖ **The desires of the eyes [Greed]. Matthew 6:22-24.**

- Advertising shows pictures—most times unreal—that urges us to purchase things that we may not actually need.
- Greed grows in us when we want to have the things our eyes see. "You deserve it", "treat yourself", "if I buy this, I can have my dream boy/girl."
- Everything is fantasy. If we let greed in our hearts, it can become a false religion. It doesn't satisfy the soul but our "sinful nature" (Galatians 5:16).
- That's why Jesus encouraged us to keep our eyes pure.

❖ **The vainglory of this life [Narcissism]. Romans 12:3.**

- What do Lucifer (Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:14), Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:30) and the Pharisees (Luke 18:11-12) have in common? They were narcissist. That is, they had an inflated opinion of themselves.
- This problem is usually related to the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10). Rich people—and those wanting to be so—may become arrogant, boastful and selfish without Jesus (Mark 10:25).

C Our identity. Matthew 6:24.

- ❖ Which is our identity? Are we servants of materialism or servants of God?
- ❖ Stewardship and materialism cover all the areas of our lives. Our identity depends on what we choose. We can be either stewards or slaves of the things God gives us.
- ❖ God gives us material blessings to enjoy and develop our character. When we use them to honor God and help those He created, we are blessed. If we become materialistic, we'll lose that blessing.
- ❖ Let's worship our Heavenly Father when we enjoy the material things on earth, because He gave them to us.