



*Proverbs 28:25*

## **BIG IDEA**

Adoration of and trust in Christ ignites the journey from greed to generosity.

## **ICE BREAKER**

Many hoarded toilet paper during the covid 19 crisis. A study revealed that the more worried a person was about the virus the more toilet paper he hoarded. We can see from this that our greed is tied to our fear.

1. Have a little fun and see who in your group bought the most toilet paper.
2. Can anyone relate to having fear or anxiety that led them to buy extra? Share your reflections with the group.

The road from greed to charity/generosity. Charity is a disposition as to how we love regarding money.

## **NEXT STEP**

When was the last time you felt adoration of Jesus? What would it look like to adore Him with my charity?

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Group leaders: consider reading the story in John 12:1-8. There is a powerful painting depicting the story in John 12. Mary is pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet while Judas' greed is on full display. Every believer in Christ longs to be like Mary in this picture. Reflect together on what fosters the heart of Mary in your life as well as what helps you choke out the greed of Judas in your life. We will learn much from one another in this discussion. Consider pausing and reading the passage again together and praying together as a group. Thank God for the desire to be like Mary--this is Christ in you and this is a miracle that needs to be

celebrated. Ask God to reveal the deception that is in your life that pulls you to play Judas' role.

2. Judas is self deceived. He's a thief and a betrayer who is acting righteously. Judas does not care about the poor--it's a cover for his greed. We are deceived whenever we think greed will lead to something good. In reality greed reveals a lack of trust in God.

Picture an open surrendered hand toward God versus a grasping hand that is fueled by fear and mistrust(it's all up to me to make it). Reflect on your journey as a believer and think of the contrasts of these two images. Share with the group a time in your life when your hand was open and surrendered and a time when your hand was clinched. As a group try to capture a list of the contrast regarding what is stirring in our hearts in these stories.

## NOTES AND QUOTES

Prov 28:25 "A greedy man stirs up strife, but those who trust in the Lord will prosper."

How is my greediness exhibited in my daily life?

We are deceived whenever we think greed will lead to something good. Greed is a lack of trust in God.

Greed's counter virtue is charity which flows out of trust. Greed blocks flourishing. We get greedy in the moment because we are worried about our flourishing.

Greed begins with distrust in God, then turns to fear and demandingness. We call Jesus LORD but our adoration lies elsewhere. In our greed, the god named MORE gets our devotion. In return it gives us anxiety, strife, and perpetual dissatisfaction. Adoration of MORE cannot bring us what we truly long for.

Judas is self deceived. He's a thief and a betrayer who is acting righteously. He is lost in his greed.

Mal 3:8-10 "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings." **9** You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Our adoration of Christ is intimately tied to our giving.

He wants me to feel true peace and harmony and being charitable is the road to get there.

