

Talking Back to the Vices

(All verses NRSV)

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Talking Back to Avarice

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Job 20:20

“For they knew no quiet in their bellies; in their greed they let nothing escape.

Psalms 10:3

For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart; those greedy for gain curse and renounce the Lord.

Proverbs 1:19

Such is the end of all who are greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

Proverbs 15:27

Those greedy for unjust gain make trouble for their households, but those who hate bribes will live.

Proverbs 28:25

The greedy person stirs up strife, but whoever trusts in the Lord will be enriched.

Jeremiah 6:13

For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

Jeremiah 8:10

Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

Hosea 4:8

They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity.

Matthew 23:25

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

Ephesians 4:19

They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Ephesians 5:3

But sexual immorality and impurity of any kind or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints.

Ephesians 5:5

Be sure of this, that no sexually immoral or impure person or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Colossians 3:5

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

1 Thessalonians 2:5

As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed,

1 Timothy 3:8

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money;

Titus 1:7

For a bishop, as God’s steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain,

2 Peter 2:3

And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money, nor the lover of wealth with gain. This also is vanity.

Luke 16:14

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed [Jesus].

2 Timothy 3:2-4

For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unfeeling, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them!

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”