

How to Mess Up the Abundant Life

SESSION 1 - ACCUMULATE AS MUCH STUFF AS POSSIBLE

INTRO - TWO STORIES

Story #1 - When I was a kid, I grew up in the country...

Story #2 - About 12 years ago, I was having a problem with a commode...

HOW TO MESS UP THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Here's the verse I want to use as the springboard for our time together this month. Listen to the words of Jesus, in **John 10:10**... *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* – John 10:10 (ESV)

How would you define an abundant life? ...And yet, so often, we're not living abundantly.

What are some of the things we tend to blame this on?

We tend to blame *not* living the abundant life on:

Life would be abundant if it weren't for my problems!

John 10:10 Jesus didn't say He came to give us an abundant life if everything and everyone else was right and the way we wanted it to be.

John 16:33 ...*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* – John 16:33 (ESV)

If we're not living an abundant life, the problem is *not* our circumstances or lack of resources. THE PROBLEM IS US AND OUR DEFINITION OF _____!

MESSING UP THE ABUNDANT LIFE #1

One way you can mess up the abundant life is by _____ AS MUCH STUFF AS POSSIBLE.

The problem here is: We confuse _____ with abundance.

Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. – Luke 12:15, ESV



Jesus also talked about a farmer...

And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. – Mark 4:18-19, ESV

When it comes to messing up the abundant life by accumulating as much stuff as possible, the moral of the story is: **THE MORE _____ YOU HAVE, THE MORE YOUR _____ HAS YOU!**

But what does this mean?

Yes, Jesus wants us to live an abundant life. But He teaches that –

- The abundant life doesn't come from accumulating more stuff, but from using the stuff you already have, _____.
- The abundant life doesn't come from asking God to give you more of His provisions, but from asking God to give you more of His _____.

Table Discussion Questions

1. How does confusing accumulation with abundance get in our way from truly following God? (See Matt.19:21-22)
2. What is the true purpose of our possessions? (See 2 Cor. 9:8-11)
3. Is it wrong to store up provisions? (See Proverbs 6:6-8) What's the difference between that and what we're talking about?
4. Why is it so easy to get caught up in our possessions and accumulation?
5. What does 2 Peter 1:3 tell us about what we need?

