

1 Deal or No Deal

- Has Greed become a new fashion statement for our society?

2 Deal or No Deal

- Contestants can pocket a million dollars just by randomly choosing the right briefcase.
- Money & sex appeal from 26 fashion models have made it an overwhelming hit.
- Adapted by countries on every continent, making it a worldwide sensation.
- However, some have said what drives the program is greed as the allure for ever greater winnings is constantly promoted.

3 Memory Lane

- Prizes were usually modest and all participants won something for participating.
- However, today, through shows like Who Wants to Be a Millionaire and Deal or No Deal the payoffs have become astronomical.
- On the show, Deal or No Deal, contestants trade away tens of thousands of dollars with the hope of making it big.

4 Quest for Wealth

- State governments in the name of worthy causes run lotteries that promise untold riches, but are funded by the desperate poor who often spend their last dollar on a ticket that offers little hope.
- Credit card companies make getting a card easy for those who are poor and have bad credit, yet charge them sky-high interest rates with little hope of ever getting out of debt.
- Casinos and online gambling offer people an opportunity to get rich quick, but as the casino resorts get bigger . . . people who fund them with their losings fall into depression and addiction.

5 What is Greed?

- Greed (covet) – a selfish, excessive, or uncontrolled desire for or pursuit for money, wealth, food, or other possessions—especially when this denies the same good to others.
 - it is the extreme form of want . . .
 - sure sign of discontent . . .
- Greed for indulgence in food and drink is called gluttony.
- Greed for indulgence in sex is called lust.
- Greed for what others have is called envy.
- Greed to keep what we have is called jealousy.

6 Constant Drive for More

- Cause us to lose perspective, where our ability to reason is greatly hindered . . .
- Cause us to do absolutely anything . . . to have what we want.
- Cause us to constantly think about what's in it for me.
- Cause us to lie, steal, and even murder.

7 Naboth's Vineyard

- King Ahab notices a vineyard adjacent to his palace, wants it for himself, and thus proposes a deal no deal to Naboth, the owner.
- Naboth, however, turns him down.
- Jezebel encourages the king her husband to take what he wants and she promises to help.
- Bring false charges against Naboth and then have him stoned to death.
- Unrestrained want led to greed, greed led to lying and lying led to murder.

8 Warnings

- Then he [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; . . ." (Luke 12:15 NIV)
- But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Eph 5:3 NIV)
- "But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat." (1Cor 5:11 NIV)

9 Warnings

- For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (Eph 5:5 NIV)
- People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. (1 Tim 6:9–12 NIV)

— Good Fight of Faith?

10 Good Fight of Faith?

11 How Do We Know?

- Our selfish desires for things come at the expense of others.
- Enough is never enough.
- Don't want to wait or acknowledge God, want it now!
- Can't keep on a budget.
- Spend behind our spouse's back.
- Drink Dr. Pepper

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12 The Secret

- But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Tim 6:6 NIV)
- I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Phil 4:12-13 NIV)
- Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col 1:27 NIV)

13 The Power

- Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (Eph 3:20 NIV)
 - Not a reference to signs, wonders, and miracles.
 - A reference that God is able to help us grow into the fulness of Christ.

14 What must I do?

- Understand that God is Good!
 - The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. (Psa 34:10 NIV-G/K)
 - God's better is always better.
- Understand that generosity crucifies greed. (See also, 1 Tim 6:18 NIV)
- Understand God's grace is sufficient and so I can be an overcomer.
- Putting our beliefs into practice is our Victory!

