

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

Holding Things Loosely: Loosening Our Grip on Life, Health & Treasure

Various Scriptures

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Near the top of the list of all the things that we try to grip firmly, are life, health, and treasure. We cherish our health, and our relationships, and the things we love. And yet the Bible often reminds us that these things are fleeting gifts from God, and our responsibility is to be stewards who are faithful to glorify God as we use them and even as we lose them.

The Cost of Following Jesus (Luke 14:25-33)

The Requirement of Stewardship: Faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 24:45-46)

Following Jesus means knowing Jesus - who He is, what He did, and what He taught - so that I can be faithful to follow and obey Him. And that also means the potential for suffering, as Jesus did (John 15:18-21)

We Hold Life, Health, and Treasure Loosely by

1. How we use these things - receiving them as temporary gifts given to us by God for His glory (Psalm 90:5-6; James 4:14; Matthew 6:19; Ecclesiastes 5:15; First Timothy 6:7)

2. How we lose these things - letting go of them with gratitude to God for having entrusted them to us, and still with the aim of glorifying Him in our loss (Acts 20:22-24; Second Timothy 4:6-8).

Questions to Consider

1. In Luke 14, to what did Jesus compare the kingdom of God? What similarities do you see?
2. What does it mean to count the cost of following Jesus? Why is that a theme that we sometimes avoid as we talk to people about Jesus? How did Jesus teach that truth?
3. What is *stewardship*, and how does it apply to your life, health, and treasures?
4. What are some Bible passages that teach us to receive physical life, health, and treasure as fleeting gifts of God's grace?
5. In what ways do your actions and desires betray the biblical reality that life, health, and treasure are fleeting? What can you do differently to hold them more loosely?
6. Can you recall an example of someone who you saw remain faithful to the Lord and steadfast, even in the midst of significant loss? What lessons did you learn?

Recommended reading: *Don't Waste Your Life* (2003) by John Piper.