

And of, course, the story of the very Son of God is inextricably tied to greed. Jesus was not betrayed for glory, honor, fame, good health, or a long life...but for 30 pieces of silver.

The Messiah, the Son of the Creator of the universe, was not delivered over for anything more than a pocketful of money.

Greed is a plague that has infected mankind almost since day one.

The Problem(s) With Greed

Accordingly, Scripture has much to say against greed. Consider the following as a non-exhaustive list of God's comments on the subject:

- **Greed is characterized by a tendency to hoard material possessions to oneself.** (See Luke 12:16-21)
- **Greed can destroy one's sympathy, compassion, and concern for the less fortunate.** (See Proverbs 18:23; Consider also Luke 16:19-31 and 1 Timothy 6:17)
- **Greed focuses one's attention on the wrong kind of treasure.** (See Matthew 6:19-21)
- **Greed can prompt one to take advantage of others in order to gain wealth.** (See James 5:1-5; Consider also Proverbs 13:11)
- **Greed consumes one's time and energy.** (See Proverbs 23:4)
- **Greed is never satiated.** (See Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- **Greed can be complicit with a multitude of other sins.** (See 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- **Greed is the opposite of contentment, which is commanded by God.** (See 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Consider also Hebrews 13:5)
- **Greed prevents one from being a public servant of the church.** (See 1 Timothy 3:8)
- **Greed prevents one from being a leader in the church.** (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- **Greed leads to grief, ruin, and destruction.** (See 1 Timothy 6:9-10)
- **Greed prevents one from being able to serve God.** (See Matthew 6:24)

Just Avoid It

In the final analysis, greed compels us to do what Will Smith once described as "spending money we don't have to buy things we don't want to impress people we don't like."

And as Christians, we must simply avoid it altogether.