

I. Beware of setting your sights too low

A. The blessing of poverty of spirit

1. Only the poor in spirit enter the Kingdom of God

“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3)

2. A relationship with Jesus Christ brings the ultimate blessing

“Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

B. The warning about earthly wealth

1. It can lead to pride and self-sufficiency

“When your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:13-14)

2. It can lead to selfishness and lack of compassion

3. It can lead to making earthly wealth our priority

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

II. Beware of settling for too little

A. The blessing of spiritual hunger

1. Spiritual hunger can lead us to Jesus

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

2. In Jesus we find the perfect fulfillment

B. The warning about worldly wealth

1. Worldly riches are not ultimately fulfilling

2. Worldly riches will all be left behind

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

III. Beware of what you laugh at

A. The blessing of Godly sorrow

1. Godly sorrow can lead to lasting joy

B. The warning about earthly happiness

1. Earthly happiness will pass away

IV. Beware of whose approval you seek

A. The blessing of standing up for Jesus

1. Persecution for the sake of Christ brings eternal rewards

“He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.” (Hebrews 11:26)

B. The warning about seeking the approval of people

1. The approval of people is temporary