

How to escape the rat race forever

Introduction: Are you "clearing cobwebs" or "killing spiders"?

What does it look like for us to kill the spider of misplaced priorities?

What's at the heart of misplaced priorities? What is it that keeps pulling us in ways that our priorities, over and over and over, get out of whack?

The root problem in priority living according to Jesus is **MATERIALISM**.

Matthew 6:1-18

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:22-23 (NIV)

22"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

24"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Summary: Do not allow the pursuit of material things to thwart your spiritual development.

Question: How can we live in a material world without becoming materialistic?

Matthew 6:24-27 (NIV)

24"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. 25Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

Matthew 6:28-32 (NIV)

28"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you...

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it easier to clean out to cobwebs instead of kill the spider?
2. Why do you think materialism is such a battleground for the priorities of our life?
3. In what way have you seen materialism overtake a families priorities? What was the end result? What have you seen are ways to overcome materialism?
4. If you had to share with someone that is a new Christian of how to live in a material world without being materialistic, what would you say?

5. What area of your family would change the most if you were to change your attitude on materialism?