

Questions for Cubs

NOTE TO PARENTS/TEACHERS:

The goal of this questions-and-answers section is to initiate interaction between you and your kids. Please do not just read the questions and answers to your kids. These answers are given for you at an adult level to think about and to process. Once that is accomplished, you can then translate them into appropriate answers for your kids.

Lesson

Greed Steals Our Joy

Key Verse

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15 NIV)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

Q: What do C.J. and Gooz find?

A: *A beehive*

Q: How much does C.J. sell a jar of honey for?

A: *One dollar*

Q: What does Staci accuse C.J. of becoming?

A: *Mean and greedy*

Q: C.J. receives a large order for how many jars of honey?

A: *Fifty jars*

Q: What happens to C.J. when he goes into the hive to get more honey?

A: *He gets stung.*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: Money can easily become the most important pursuit in our lives and pull us away from God. What is it about money that makes the love of it so dangerous?

A: Money gives its owner power. With enough money, you can get access to places you couldn't before, you can pay for mistakes, make some problems go away, and get the things that catch your fancy. None of these things are particularly bad. There is nothing wrong with having money. However, for those who are not prepared and do not have the character to handle it, they will place all of their hope and faith in the illusion that wealth will provide them with everything they need, material as well as spiritual. This is a horrible miscalculation.

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Instead of relying on God, a proud, rich man can go anywhere he wants and get anything he wants as long as he can afford it. This usually causes pride to swell and this rich man to feel that he does not need God. In Matthew 19:23–24, Christ tells us: "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

It takes a great deal of wisdom and self-control to submit to God and His will when you have the wealth to go and do whatever you want. It is the rare and godly man who understands that going and doing whatever he wants is the quickest way to destruction. Learn to distrust your own desires. Trust only in God and follow Him. This is far better than great wealth.

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Look up the definition of greed. Is it wrong for someone to make money? What is the difference between wanting to make money and being greedy?
2. Read Luke 12:13–34. In your own words, explain what you think Jesus means in verse 21. What do people mean when they say, "You can't take it with you?" How is this like the man in Jesus's parable?
3. Read verse 34 again. Why doesn't God want our hearts to be wrapped up in our treasures here on earth?
4. Look over the passage again and make a list of some of the ways God takes care of us.
5. What could C.J. have done to sell the honey without being greedy? (i.e. set a fair price, give a portion of the profit to charity, make sure his heart wasn't stolen away from being on what God wanted for him, etc.)

Director's Notes

Money is a tough subject. It has been from the beginning. There is nothing inherently wrong with money or even with having a lot of it. Clearly, there is nothing evil about a coin or a piece of paper in and of itself. Our attitudes toward money are a different matter. It is difficult, very difficult, to keep money from becoming too important in our lives. This is the heart of the problem. The pursuit of money can easily become the primary mission of our lives. Money can almost instantly displace in our hearts and minds the pursuit of God and of the welfare of others. This is exactly what happened to C.J. when he discovered the "best honey ever." He thought he was being very rational when he placed the pursuit of money above every other consideration. The irony of this kind of behavior is that it can feel like a noble, even sacrificial pursuit. But that could not be further from the truth.

C.J. found himself trapped in a vicious downward spiral. He was mistreating his friends and ignoring those around him who were in need. He even destroyed the very source of his income when he tore into the hive to force more out of it than it could give. As is often the case, saving grace came disguised as disaster. C.J.'s backside was attacked by the bees, and the pain cleared his head. He reevaluated his actions, and with the counsel of his father, he chose to give his profits to a needy family—the same family who had been nothing more than an annoyance to him just the day before. This was a true act of repentance.

We often ask for forgiveness when we are in trouble, but we have no intention or desire to give up anything in the process. C.J. found the courage to perform a necessary act of penitence. This story is a great example for me; I hope it will be one for all of the kids listening too.



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