

GREEDY TIMOTHY

GREED BLINDS US, BLUFFS AND KILLS US.

Intent of the Story

- ✓ *Greed blinds us*
- ✓ *Greed is unquenchable.*
- ✓ *Greed ruins our lives*
- ✓ *We sacrifice what we are for money sake*

THE STORY.

Timothy was a greedy wealthy man. He owned large properties.. For ever he fought with others over money matters.

One of his enemies, in order to destroy him, very cleverly presented him with a small "golden fish" in a glass bowl. He told him: "Timothy, when these "golden fish" grows to its normal size and dies a natural death, automatically, it will turn into pure gold. Then, you will be the richest man on earth!"

Timothy's unquenchable thirst for money overcame his common sense, and he believed the story of the "golden fish"

When Timothy went home he kept his "golden fish" in a small water tank. Then, he generously began feeding his "golden fish". The fish, to Timothy's delight, grew very fast. Our Timothy was dreaming of the day when he would collect a heap of gold from his water tank.

After some months, the little tank became too small to contain the "golden fish", so Timothy at a great expense, had a pond built for the fish, and later on even a little lake! So big the Golden Fish had become!

Timothy was impatiently waiting for the fish to stop growing and die; then, and only then, he would become rich beyond his dreams.

After a long, long time, after Timothy had spent all his wealth and health feeding and caring for the ever growing "golden fish", he, aged and bankrupt, died before the fish could!

He did never realize that his enemy had presented him with a baby whale!

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Who does Timothy stand for in real life
2. How was Timothy so easily bluffed by his enemy?
3. What does greed do to us?
4. Can a greedy person ever be happy? Why?
5. Jesus calls money that 'tainted' thing" Why?
6. Are money and wealth in themselves good or evil? Explain.
7. Is money dangerous? What are the dangers of having money? Explain.
8. We read in the Bible that money is the root cause of all evils? Is it so? Explain.

9. Is the teaching of the Scripture opposed to money? Explain.
10. Why does Jesus mean by saying that it is very hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
11. To what extent is money necessary to live a happy human life? Why?
12. Is money alone sufficient to make us happy in life? Why?
13. In other to be happy, what other things are wanted? Mention the most important ones and explain why?
14. What do you think is the secret of being happy? Kindly, let us know.
15. As a whole, are we human beings greedy for money? What are the results of it?
16. Very often we hear that money is an idol – the god - of modern man? Explain.
17. Do we, like Timothy, sacrifice the best we have, (*our time, our energies, love and friendship, etc*) trying to get a wealth that may never come?
18. Do you find any other applications or ideas in connection with the story of the "Golden Fish"?

PERSONAL CHECK:

- 1) What are the things you crave most for in life?
- 2) What motivates you to study, work and strain yourself in life?
- 3) How much time you spend trying to make money?
- 4) How often do you talk about money?
- 5) How much do you worry about money?
- 6) Are you satisfied with what you have?
- 7) Do you feel jealous of those who have more than you?
- 8) Can you share your money, your wealth and possessions with others? How generous do you think you are? Grade yourself between 1 and 5
(*1 – I am stingy; 2 - I am too worried about money; 3 – Somehow, I share my things with others; 4 - I easily share what I have; 5 – I am very generous.*)

APPENDIX Bible Quotes about Riches and Money helpful for a Prayer Session or Exercise.

- We brought nothing into the world. Greed for money is the root of all evil. (1 Tim 6/6-10)
- Command the rich not to be proud. (1 Tim 6/17-19)
- Poverty and riches (Jas 1/9-11)
- Warning to the rich (Jas 5/1-3)
- You say I am rich, yet you are poor...(Re 3/17-19)
- "Better the poor contented than the rich... (Prov 28/6-11)
- Give me neither poverty nor riches...(P'rov 30/8-9)
- Vanity of vanities and all is vanity... (Ecc 2/8-11; 4/7-8; 5/12-15)
- Riches in heaven. True riches that get neither robbed nor rusted. (Mt 6/19-21)
- God and possessions. Trust in God's providence. (Mt 6/24-34)
- Get 100 per cent out of "your riches to gain you eternal life. (Mk 10/28-31)

- **Jesus main teaching** Mt 5/1-11
The Beatitudes. Blessed are those detached from riches – the poor in Spirit, the meek, the peace makers, those who suffer for the sake of justice.
- **What should we ask God for?** Mt 6/11
Just give us “our daily bread”, this is enough. Not asking for wealth or riches.
- **Where should we place our trust and our hearts** Mt 6/24-34
In God alone, not in wealth or possessions, just in God’s providence and love.
- **What to search in life** Lk 6/20-27
Search for true riches where they lie.
- **The Rich Young Man** Mk 10/17-27
Though he was a good person, he missed being a disciple of Jesus because he was greedy for money.
- **Warning those who get attached to money and wealth** Mk 10/ 21-27
How hard will it be for rich people to enter the Kingdom of God!
- **Jesus condemns those who use their moneys only for themselves** Lk 16/19-31
Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.