

God's Mission My Mission

Mission to the Powerful

Lesson #9 for December 2, 2023

Scriptures: Daniel 4; 2 Kings 5:1-19; John 3:1-12; 7:42-52; 19:38-42; Matthew 19:16-22.

1. Who are the powerful? Would that include mainly military leaders? Or, kings? Or, business leaders? What kinds of people are struggling to control the world or at least a portion of it? What does the Bible say about people like that? Do gains in this world cancel the possibility of gains in the future life?

Matthew 16:26: “Will people gain anything if they win the whole world but lose their life? Of course not! There is nothing they can give to regain their life.”—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation** (2nd ed., Matthew 16:26). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].[‡]

2. So many people among Christians are hoping that they can have a maximum amount of “this world” and still enjoy heaven in the future. Do you know anyone like that?

[From the Bible study guide=BSG:] Though written many years ago, the Bible, the Word of God, is the revelation of God’s truth for our world. And among the many truths it reveals is that of human nature, and that—whether in seventh-century [B.C.] Judea or twenty-first-century Brazil—people are basically the same: sinners in need of divine grace.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Sabbath Afternoon, November 25.[‡]

3. How many rich/powerful people can you think of who are mentioned in the Bible? Let us look at the examples of some of them.

4. **Nebuchadnezzar:** We cannot even imagine the life and situation in which Nebuchadnezzar lived. To rule the world and to be worshiped as a god is beyond our comprehension. But, God recognized that He could reach Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel. And God is doing everything He can to save as many as possible.

1 Timothy 2:4: [God] Who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth.—*Good News Bible*.^{*‡}

1 John 2:2: And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone.—*Good News Bible*.^{*}

Ephesians 1:4: Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.—*Good News Bible*.^{*}

5. ***Do we really believe that God would like everyone to be saved, even Satan? Why can't He save all? (GC 542-3; 670) God will not take them to heaven to torture them!***
6. Nebuchadnezzar was the most prominent king in the ancient Babylonian kingdom. He was king for longer than all of his successors combined. And he had several dreams given by God.
7. Daniel 4 tells the story of how Nebuchadnezzar and his boastful pride was visited by God and warned that a terrible time was coming when he would lose his kingship. The giant

tree that represented him was cut down, but a stump was left. And Daniel reminded him of what it meant and that one day he would return to his powerful position.

8. One year after the dream, reality hit; Nebuchadnezzar was turned into someone acting like an animal. But, eventually—we do not know what all happened—Nebuchadnezzar “came to his senses” and praised God with wonderful words.

Daniel 4:34-37: ³⁴ “When the seven years had passed,” said the king, “I looked up at the sky, and my sanity returned. I praised the Supreme God and gave honour [*sic-Br*] and glory to the one who lives for ever [*sic-Br*]. [How many saw King Nebuchadnezzar during his years of insanity?]

“He will rule for ever [*sic-Br*],
and his kingdom will last for all time.

³⁵ He looks on the people of the earth as nothing;
angels in heaven and people on earth
are under his control.

No one can oppose his will
or question what he does.

³⁶ “When my sanity returned, my honour [*sic-Br*], my majesty, and the glory of my kingdom were given back to me. My officials and my noblemen welcomed me, and I was given back my royal power, with even greater honour [*sic-Br*] than before. [What mental disease resolves after 7 years?]

³⁷ “And now, I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, honour [*sic-Br*], and glorify the King of Heaven. Everything he does is right and just, and he can humble anyone who acts proudly.”—*Good News Bible*.*[†] [Why was he welcomed back?][‡]

9. Imagine God while ruling the universe, nevertheless, taking time to go through several steps, even dreams/visions to reach out to Nebuchadnezzar in his situation. Do you expect to see Nebuchadnezzar in heaven?
10. Contrast the story of Nebuchadnezzar with the story of three of these Hebrew Kings: Hezekiah, Rehoboam and Saul. Saul was so proud and so self-centered that he could not accept guidance even from God Himself. We know the terrible story of his finally going to the witch of Endor and the next day being killed in battle.
11. Solomon’s son Rehoboam allowed all sorts of pagan worship to develop during his kingship until, finally, the country had almost turned into a pagan nation.

1 Kings 14:21-24: ²¹ Solomon’s son Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king of Judah....

²² **The people of Judah sinned against the LORD and did more to arouse his anger against them than all their ancestors had done.**

²³They built places of worship for false gods, and put up stone pillars and symbols of Asherah to worship on the hills and under shady trees. ²⁴Worst of all, there were men and women who served as prostitutes at those pagan places of worship. The people of Judah practised [*sic-Br*] all the shameful things done by the people whom the LORD had driven out of the land as the Israelites advanced into the country.—*Good News Bible*.*^{††} [That was like the story of Sodom.][‡]

12. It is interesting to note that each of these powerful men had interactions with God or one of His prophets themselves. Do people in our day have those kinds of direct interactions with God? Would you like a visit from God once a week? Who would demand equal time?
13. The story of **Naaman**, the leper/general in the Syrian army is fairly familiar. Christ Himself talked about Naaman when He went back to preach His final sermon in Nazareth, His hometown.

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] Few realize the full meaning of the words that Christ spoke when, in the synagogue at Nazareth, He announced Himself as the Anointed One. He declared His mission to comfort, bless, and save the sorrowing and the sinful; and then, seeing that pride and unbelief controlled the hearts of His hearers, He reminded them that in time past God had turned away from His chosen people because of their unbelief and rebellion, and had manifested Himself to those in heathen lands who had not rejected the light of heaven. **The widow of Sarepta and Naaman the Syrian had lived up to all the light they had**; hence they were accounted more righteous than God's chosen people who had backslidden from Him and had sacrificed principle to convenience and worldly honor.—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles** 416.3.†

14. Naaman was a powerful general in charge of the Syrian army. And yet, when he heard of the possibility that someone in Israel could heal him of his disease, he was willing to listen to his wife's slave maiden for directions. He traveled to Israel with an enormous offering to pay for his healing. But, Elisha would not accept it. Elisha asked him simply to go and wash himself in the Jordan River, dipping seven times.
15. In 2 Kings 5:17-19, we notice two very interesting conclusions to the whole story: (1) In ancient times, it was believed that gods were assigned to different territories in the world. In order to worship a certain god, one had to be in his/her territory. So, Naaman asked if it was possible for him to carry two mule loads of soil from Israel back to Syria so he could worship God on God's own ground. Clearly, Naaman was convinced that the God of Israel—*YAHWEH*—was far superior to any of the other gods he knew about. So, he chose to worship the true God even when he was back in his own country, doing what he thought was right.
16. But Naaman, being the general of the army, followed the king around in almost all of his activities. So, he requested that God would forgive him if he would attend the king of Syria when the king went to worship the god Rimmon. He did not want *YAHWEH* to think that he was worshiping any other god. And Elisha told him to "go in peace."

[From the *SDA Bible Commentary*.] These words [*go in peace*] must not be thought of as either expressing approval or disapproval of Naaman's parting request. He was to depart in peace, not in doubt or restless uncertainty. God had been kind to him, and he was to find happiness and peace in his knowledge and worship of God. Naaman was a new convert, a man with conscientious scruples, who would grow in strength and wisdom if he clung to his new-found faith. God leads new converts on step by step, and knows the appropriate moment in which to call for a reform in a certain matter. This

principle ought always to be borne in mind by those who labor for the salvation of souls.—Article on 2 Kings 5:19. In F. D. Nichol (Ed.), *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,* vol. 2, (1954) (page 878).‡

17. ***To whom would Naaman turn for learning about the true God? To his wife's foreign servant maiden?***

[BSG:] What lessons should we learn from this story about not pushing people too quickly, especially those who come from a non-Christian background?—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Monday, November 27.‡

18. Think of the impact that that young slave maiden who worked for Naaman's wife has had on the world.

[EGW:] "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper."

Ben-hadad, king of Syria, had defeated the armies of Israel in the battle which resulted in the death of Ahab. Since that time the Syrians had maintained against Israel a constant border warfare, and in one of their raids they had carried away a little maid who, in the land of her captivity, "waited on Naaman's wife." A slave, far from her home, this little maid was nevertheless one of God's witnesses, unconsciously fulfilling the purpose for which God had chosen Israel as His people. As she ministered in that heathen home, her sympathies were aroused in behalf of her master; and, remembering the wonderful miracles of healing wrought through Elisha, she said to her mistress, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy." She knew that the power of Heaven was with Elisha, and she believed that by this power Naaman could be healed. [Leprosy was regarded as the curse of the finger of God!]

The conduct of the captive maid, the way that she bore herself in that heathen home, is a strong witness to the power of early home training. There is no higher trust than that committed to fathers and mothers in the care and training of their children. Parents have to do with the very foundations of habit and character. By their example and teaching the future of their children is largely decided.

Happy are the parents whose lives are a true reflection of the divine, so that the promises and commands of God awaken in the child gratitude and reverence; the parents whose tenderness and justice and long-suffering interpret to the child the love and justice and long-suffering of God, and who by teaching the child to love and trust and obey them, are teaching him to love and trust and obey his Father in heaven. Parents who impart to the child such a gift have endowed him with a treasure more precious than the wealth of all the ages, a treasure as enduring as eternity.—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings** 244.1-245.2.†‡

19. It is interesting to notice Elisha's exchange with Naaman. He did not try to give Naaman a lot of information about the worship of the true God. He just said, "Go in peace." Where did Naaman get his later information about the truth? Was it from the servant girl?
20. In the New Testament, one of the outstanding wealthy individuals was **Nicodemus**. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling council, the Sanhedrin. He was recognized by his community as being faithful to God, keeping all the commandments. He was a respected leader among the Jews. He was powerful and wealthy. So, it was assumed that he was a good man because God was blessing him.
21. Most of the Pharisees were constantly at odds with Jesus. Do you think that it is possible that Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees that had been delegated to try to trap Jesus at one time or another? There were a lot of Pharisees who later realized that they had been on the wrong side and chose to become faithful believers, even church leaders.

Acts 6:7: And so the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew larger and larger, and **a great number of priests** [probably Sadducees, rich and educated] accepted the faith.—*Good News Bible*.*††

Acts 15:5: But **some of the believers** who belonged to **the party of the Pharisees** stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and told to obey the Law of Moses [before joining as members of the church]."—*Good News Bible*.*††

22. The story of Nicodemus's first visit with Jesus as recorded in John 3:1-21 is very familiar. John 3:16, in the middle of that story, is perhaps the best-known Bible verse of all time.
23. Nicodemus had probably memorized much of the Old Testament in Hebrew, and he knew all the rules and teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees. But, he still felt a spiritual need. He was honest enough to recognize that Jesus was at least a great Teacher and possibly the Messiah. Nicodemus came to Jesus secretly with his façade as one of the leaders of Israel. But, Jesus paid no attention to that façade. He responded to Nicodemus by pointing out that he still needed to understand what true religion was all about.

John 7:43-52: ⁴³So there was a division in the crowd because of Jesus. ⁴⁴Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵ When the guards went back, the chief priests and Pharisees asked them, "Why did you not bring him?"

⁴⁶ The guards answered, "Nobody has ever talked like this man!"

⁴⁷ "Did he fool you, too?" the Pharisees asked them. ⁴⁸ "Have you ever known one of the authorities or one Pharisee to believe in him? ⁴⁹This crowd does not know the Law of Moses, so they are under God's curse!"

⁵⁰ One of the Pharisees there was **Nicodemus**, the man who had gone to see Jesus before. He said to the others, ⁵¹ "According to our Law we cannot condemn anyone before hearing him and finding out what he has done."

⁵² "Well," they answered, "are you also from Galilee? Study the Scriptures and you will learn that no prophet ever comes from Galilee."—*Good News Bible*.*† [Jonah and Hosea came from Galilee, and probably Nahum did also.]†

24. Nicodemus did not let it be known that he was a follower of Jesus. But, on several occasions, he raised questions that prevented the Pharisees from taking action against Jesus. Finally, when Jesus died, Nicodemus went to the aid of the disciples and did for Jesus what they could not have done.

John 19:39: Nicodemus, who at first had gone to see Jesus at night, went with Joseph, taking with him about 30 kilogrammes [*sic-Br*] of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes.—*Good News Bible*.*†

[EGW:] After the Lord's ascension, when the disciples were scattered by persecution, Nicodemus came boldly to the front. He employed his wealth in sustaining the infant church that the Jews had expected to be blotted out at the death of Christ. In the time of peril he who had been so cautious and questioning was firm as a rock, encouraging the faith of the disciples, and furnishing means to carry forward the work of the gospel. **He was scorned and persecuted by those who had paid him reverence in other days. He became poor in this world's goods; yet he faltered not in the faith which had its beginning in that night conference with Jesus.** [Why do you think Nicodemus made that secret trip to see Jesus?]

Nicodemus related to John the story of that interview, and by his pen it was recorded for the instruction of millions. The truths there taught are as important today as they were on that solemn night in the shadowy mountain, when the Jewish ruler came to learn the way of life from the lowly Teacher of Galilee.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages** 177.1-2.†

25. Another well-known story in the Bible paints a very different picture—the rich young ruler.

Matthew 19:16-22: ¹⁶ Once a man came to Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what good thing must I do to receive eternal life?” [Compare Acts 16:31.]

¹⁷ “Why do you ask me concerning what is good?” answered Jesus. “There is only One who is good. Keep the commandments if you want to enter life.”

¹⁸ “What commandments?” he asked.

Jesus answered, “Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not accuse anyone falsely; ¹⁹respect your father and your mother; and love your neighbour [*sic-Br*] as you love yourself.”

²⁰ “I have obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else do I need to do?”

²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me.”

²² **When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he was very rich.**—*Good News Bible*.*†

26. What a contrast with the story of Nicodemus. Which of these two stories most clearly represents a typical human response?

27. Why do you suppose this rich young man rejected Jesus? Remember that in Jesus's day, it was believed that if you were rich and powerful, you were obviously a good person because God was blessing you. So, when Jesus said: “Sell all your goods, and give to

the poor,” Jesus was asking him to give up all the “evidence” that he had that he was a good man and to live as if he were a sinner, rejected by God! Think of Job’s friends!

28. Why is it that it is so difficult for the rich and powerful to be saved?

Matthew 19:23-24: ²³ Jesus then said to his disciples, “I assure you: it will be very hard for rich people to enter the Kingdom of heaven. ²⁴I repeat: it is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”—*Good News Bible*.*

[BSG:] In the end, the rich and the poor face the same fate: the grave. This means that the rich are in as desperate need of salvation as is anyone else. Whatever else money can buy, it cannot buy an exemption from death. That exemption comes only as a gift, offered freely by Jesus to whoever will claim it by faith. “ ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live’ ” (*John 11:25, NKJV*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Wednesday, November 29.†§

29. Another rich man with whom Jesus had some direct contact was **Zacchaeus**.

Luke 19:1-10: ¹ Jesus went on into Jericho and was passing through. ²There was a chief tax collector there named Zacchaeus, who was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was a little man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to Zacchaeus, “Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today.”

⁶ Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed him with great joy. ⁷All the people who saw it started grumbling, “This man has gone as a guest to the home of a sinner!”

⁸ Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much.” [Did Jesus ask him to do that?]

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Salvation has come to this house today, for this man, also, is a descendant of Abraham. ¹⁰The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”—*Good News Bible*.*†

30. What a contrast to the response of the rich young ruler.

31. What do you suppose Zacchaeus knew about Jesus? Why did he respond in the way he did? Jesus did not ask him to give up anything; but, Zacchaeus was willing to give up a major portion of his riches!

32. There were others among the rich who were attracted to Jesus. Think of the story of **Joseph of Arimathea**. We know nothing about him except what he did after Jesus was dead, taking His body down from the cross along with John and Nicodemus. He may have joined Nicodemus in defending Jesus before the Sanhedrin. His brief story is mentioned in Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-47; Luke 23:50-53; and John 19:38-42.

33. Let us not forget Matthew 16:26.

Matthew 16:26: “Will people gain anything if they win the whole world but lose their life? Of course not! There is nothing they can give to regain their life.”—*Good News Bible*.*

[BSG:] Jesus knew how to make friends with the powerful. He was admired and respected by many of these people and, at the same time, was also despised by many. The powerful people in the Bible who came to Jesus for help surely sensed that He cared for them. **Also, many of the rich and powerful did not openly come to Jesus right away; they waited until they were certain that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Such was the case both with Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea.**—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, November 30.†‡

34. ***Why do you think rich and powerful men like Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Zacchaeus, Matthew, and others were attracted to Jesus?***

35. Apparently, Joseph, like Nicodemus, had been a secret admirer and follower of Jesus. We basically know nothing else about him except the fact that he offered to allow Jesus to be buried in his family tomb and helped Nicodemus and the disciple John to take the body of Jesus down from the cross and bury it. Did people later beg to be buried there?

36. So, how should we approach rich people?

[BSG:] Where to begin can be one of the most difficult phases in making friends with powerful people. In general, it is better not to pursue them; let them come to you. [How can you attract them?] Jesus did this; they became a witness to His message, healing, and power from God. They were convinced behind the scenes that He is truly the Son of God.

Powerful people will seek to partner with genuine ministry for a number of reasons. They want to be part of something good that is changing the lives of people. This is one way they know that it can also change their lives. **It provides a subtle way for the rich and powerful to get the help they need without publicly disclosing their needs.**

The second phase is to begin a genuine ministry as an avenue for the rich and powerful to be part of God’s ministry. Take some time to invest in the lives of the rich and powerful in your society.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, November 30.‡

37. What could we do to try to reach out to some wealthier, powerful people in our society?

[BSG:] Challenge: Add someone to your daily prayer list who is in a position of power, is not a believer, and is someone you could come in contact with from time to time.

Challenge Up: Address a letter or email to someone in a position of power—even if it is someone you may never have met—and tell that person that you are praying for him or her.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, November 30.‡

38. While it seems obvious, sometimes we overlook the fact that Jesus loves everyone the same, whether rich or poor, powerful or helpless, princes or paupers. Every one of us needs salvation that only God can offer.

39. So, why did Jesus say it is so difficult for a rich person to be saved?

Mark 10:25: “It is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”—*Good News Bible*.*

[EGW:] Much is said concerning our duty to the neglected poor; should not some attention be given to the neglected rich? Many look upon this class as hopeless, and they do little to open the eyes of those, who, blinded and dazed by the glitter of earthly glory, have lost eternity out of their reckoning. Thousands of wealthy men have gone to their graves unwarned. But indifferent as they may appear, many among the rich are soul-burdened. “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase.” He that says to fine gold, “Thou art my confidence,” has “denied the God that is above.” “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever).” Ecclesiastes 5:10; Job 31:24, 28; Psalm 49:7, 8.—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing** 210.1.‡

40. ***How do we as Adventists try to reach across the gap between the rich and the poor? Is it with our health message? What did Jesus mean when He talked about “the deceitfulness of riches”? Are only the rich deceived by the deceitfulness of riches?***

41. Jesus recognized that it would not be easy for naturally selfish human beings to become His faithful followers and receive a reward in heaven.

42. Matthew 16:24-28 suggest that we must, in fact, take up the cross if we want to follow Jesus.

Luke 14:25-33: ²⁵ Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. ²⁷Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples....” [What did the term, *cross*, mean to the disciples?]

³¹ “If a king goes out with 10,000 men to fight another king who comes against him with 20,000 men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. ³²If he isn’t, he will send messengers to meet the other king, to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. ³³**In the same way,” concluded Jesus, “none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have.”**—*Good News Bible*.*††

43. Paul recognized the challenge that Jesus was addressing when he wrote 1 Timothy 6:10.

1 Timothy 6:10: For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows.—*Good News Bible*.*†

44. Jesus wants all there is of us. We cannot place our personal priorities over Him, or we will lose salvation. We are expected to die daily to self-interest, selfish desires, and any ambitions that would hinder our relationship with Him.

45. ***If you had to choose, right now, to die and be saved, or to live on and be lost, what would you say? What would you choose?***

[BSG:] Jesus also demands of His followers a devotion that surpasses their instinct to preserve their own lives. Disciples must prioritize their devotion to Jesus over life itself. As a symbol of an unavoidable and most excruciating death, taking one's cross to follow Jesus epitomizes a commitment to the highest possible cost of being His disciple. Just as carrying a literal cross was an act of submitting to the Romans, taking one's cross to follow Jesus refers to Jesus' call for His disciples' total submission to Him.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 119-120.‡

46. Let us never forget that every person who exists on our world is a child of God. He would like to save every one of us. In the Bible we know of many people who were wealthy, like Abraham, Isaac, Job, and David in the Old Testament. Also, Matthew, Barnabas, Paul, the Ethiopian eunuch, and Cornelius the Roman centurion in the New Testament. There were, of course, many others. Think of the story of Paul who went from being a member of the Sanhedrin, a wealthy and well-liked young man, to being the apostle to the Gentiles!

47. Jesus recognized that even to His disciples, He could not give too much information in a short period of time. See John 16:12.

[EGW:] **Take One Point at a Time**—Teachers of the Word of God are not to keep back any part of the counsel of God, lest the people shall be ignorant of their duty and not understand what is the will of God concerning them, and stumble and fall into perdition. But **while the teacher of truth should be faithful in presenting the gospel, let him never pour out a mass of matter which the people cannot comprehend because it is new to them and hard to understand. Take one point at a time**, and make that one point plain, speaking slowly and in a distinct voice. Speak in such a way that the people shall see what is the relation of that one point to other truths of vital importance.... It will be difficult to create prejudice in the hearts of those who are seeking for truth as for hidden treasure, if the speaker will hide himself in Christ; for he will then reveal Christ, not himself.—Manuscript 39, 1895.—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism** 201.3.†‡

48. So, what have we learned from this lesson that might help us in our day-by-day lives?

[BSG:] As Christians, it is important that the way we relate to money and all that it can afford does not hinder our relationship with God.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 122.‡

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