

Pillars Slide

Summary of Pillars

Pillars pray to cultivate. Full of Grit.

Platformers perform to consume. Full of Themselves.

Pillars are full of Spiritual Poverty & Spiritual Wealth.

Pillars receive God's Grace in Spiritual Poverty.

Humble

Hidden

Grateful

Receptive

Pillars display God's Grit through Spiritual Wealth.

Joyful

Wise

Generous

Non-Anxious

Persevering

Sacrificial

City Church is...

Raising up humble leaders with joy.

Unafraid. Overflowing. Sent.

Now- as we head back into Luke's gospel- I want to introduce you to the Pillar Killer. A very sneaky character.

Luke Series Slide

I recently finished reading Cormac McCarthy's "No Country for Old Men".

The book primarily follows 3 characters.

One character- named Anton Chigurh- represents deterministic and chaotic evil. (Evil is going to happen and it there is no real rhyme or reason to it)

Another character- Llewellyn Moss represents a kind of morally complicated person- he likes good. He's a hard working salt-of-the-earth type, but when he stumbles upon a bag full of money after a drug deal gone bad- he takes it. And evil follows him at every turn.

Chigurh- starts to hunt him because he has been hired to retrieve the money. And Moss has attached himself to the money...so he becomes the target of evil.

The money does not make Moss' life better. In fact it brings evil and death not only to him, but to people that he loves.

Then there is the third character. The Sheriff. Sheriff Bell. He represents good in the novel. He has an old school sort of "Yessir, yes m'am" attitude. He's committed to objective morality and doesn't like the moral decay he sees around him. He's at the end of his career about to retire as a man of the law- and he's not sure if society can be saved.

He's the Old Man of "No Country for Old Men". In other words- as he watches money corrupt good men...and evil chasing it...he looks around to the broader country around him... and thinks- I can't live in this world...my morality, my values are no longer making sense of the evil I see.

In a scene right at the end of the book- he's speaking with one of the county prosecutors in the courthouse hallway in their little Texas town... and out of blue...comes this short dialogue. There is no further context to these words. It flashes up in conversation...and then its gone- but for me its a major theme of the whole novel.

All narrated in the first person by Sheriff Bell.

Finally, I asked him if he knew who Mammon was.

And he said: Mammon?

Yes. Mammon.

You mean like in God and Mammon?

Yessir.

Well, he said, I cant say as I do. I know it's in the bible. Is it the devil?

I don't know. I'm goin to look it up. I got a feelin I ought to know who it is.

He kindly smiled and he said. You sound like he might be getting ready to take up the spare bedroom.

Well, I said, that would be one concern.

In any case I feel I need to familiarize myself with his habits.

Indeed it does come from the Bible.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and [Mammon].

Mammon is the demonic spirit that attaches itself to money. Its the evil that follows money wherever it goes.

Paul's warning to young pastor Timothy...

1 Timothy 6:9-11

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.11 But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

“The Pillar Killer: How to Keep Mammon Out of the Spare Bedroom”- Luke 12:13-34

Luke 12:13-34

13 Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 “Friend,” he said to him, “who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you? ” 15 He then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”

16 Then he told them a parable: “A rich man’s land was very productive. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? 18 I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. 19 Then I’ll say to myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” ’

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared — whose will they be? ’

21 “That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

22 Then he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: They don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than the birds? 25 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 26 If then you’re not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 28 If that’s how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you — you of little faith? 29 Don’t strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don’t be anxious. 30 For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

31 “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. 32 Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1) Mammon tracks you down in socks.

There is a tracker in the money Lewllyen Moss doesn’t know is there. That’s how Chigurh finds him.

In NCfOM, they take off their shoes to sneak around.

Sneaky.

v 13

Sneaky- breaking a family up.
Blind to it. Can't even see it happening.

v 15

Watch out - Be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of possessions.

Watch out-Greek Horah- Oh. Means to make visible
Be on Guard.

Sneaky enemy. Like Predator with the cloaking device. (Predator Badlands- PG-13.) There are no human deaths in it- the message of the movie is despite what bad scripts we received from our family of origin- we can form a family stronger than blood that transcends division, makes enemies into brothers and sisters, and values even the weakest member of the community.

Its basically God's Not Dead 5.

Anyway- Greed has a cloaking device.

You need to make it visible and protect yourself from it.

v 19-20

Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." '

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared — whose will they be? '

Look how it slowly sneaks up on this man...in socks. Lulls him to sleep. Then suddenly- death is at his door and his life has been about nothing but building storage units. He lives in Murfreesboro.

tragedies, accidents, sicknesses, broken relationships, and death. Money doesn't do a thing to stop any of those things. As a matter of fact, when it comes to broken relationships, it enhances the brokenness of relationships

Back to 1)

watch out for greed!- Why not adultery — not nearly as sneaky

Jesus speaks about money 10x the amount he talks about sex. The point is not that a sexual ethic isn't important. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. The larger point is that most of us just nod our heads and say Ok, Ok, Ok...no matter what our brother or sister does with money... but if they walked up and said "Hey, I'm thinking of having an affair this weekend...we'd probably say "NO!" Dont do it!

No G4 group for materialism or greed. Would be hard to start it. Likely no one would show up.

We don't feel materialistic, because most times you end up hanging out with people who make the same amount of money as you.

Blindness to the condition is a part of the condition.

KELLER STORY

Some years ago I talked to a TV executive who was well-paid. He was the executive of a channel a lot of teenagers watched, but he wouldn't let his own teenage daughters watch it. When somebody asked the question about whether that was consistent, he was not excited about that question. He says, "You don't ask questions like that. How could you possibly do business if you were always asking questions like this?"

If you refuse to ask those questions- you are being voluntarily blind

Don't want to budget because the budget will tell them what to do.

2) Mammon makes you feel like a king, while he uses you as an ottoman.

Show Mammon painting- George Fredric Watts

1 John 2:16

16 For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions — is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Possessions- BIOS. life..

Possessions feel like your life. You take pride in them. you get puffed up...you FEEL like a king. But actually- they are killing you.

Luke 12:15

Possessions is hyparcho. Under ruler.

The things under your control...but they end up controlling you. They make your decisions for you. Anything that is attached to money.

How do you know when you've crossed the line.

Gloating and Worry are signs that you're Mammon's Ottoman.

Gloating- "I HAVE PLENTY. I've done a great job."

Worry- "I don't have enough. God hasn't done a great job."

Spiritual Gray. Not Grace or Grit. Spiritual Middle Class.. Not spiritual poverty or wealth

v 19

Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself."

v 22-23

22 Then he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing

v 24 & 27

The temptation. What we chase after.
Ravens- Security- Savers
Wildflowers- Beauty- Spenders

3) Mammon is always outsmarted by Spiritual Wealth.

Luke 12:21

“That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:31-34

“But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. 32 Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

Only God can make you secure and beautiful

Overwork or overthink “Gentiles who don’t know God run after these things. Chase them... when really Mammon is chasing them.”

Back to 3)

Jesus gives us 2 things.

1- A radical experience of Grace.

FIRST- Your Father desires to give you the Kingdom.

apart from your works. He doesn’t look at what you’ve done and then say “I will or want give you the kingdom. He cares deeply about you before you did anything good or bad. A

Jesus says if you are storing things up- you are doing it because you are NOT rich toward God.

Its a lack of INNER SPIRITUAL WEALTH.

Pillars when you receive grace in your spiritual poverty.

2 Cor 8:7-9

7 Now as you excel in everything — in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us — excel also in this act of grace. 8 I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich

He became poor- so you could become rich through his poverty you have become
There it is. Look, the same thing. Does Paul say, "If you give your treasure away, God will give you his heavenly treasure"? No. He actually says, "You will never be free with regard to your earthly treasure until you see God has given you his ultimate treasure."

He liquidated everything for us, the poor. Why? To pay for our sins on the cross.

Our possessions- we didn't create. We are given stewardship and rule- but they are all Gods

"What do you get the man who has everything?"-

If you knew that, Jesus says, if you had that inner subjective spiritual wealth, if you knew how much you had been treasured, if you knew how much you *are* treasured, your money would just be money. It wouldn't be security, it wouldn't be beauty; it would just be money. See, the only way you're going to get over this sickness is not just to look at the rule "Give your money away." It's to see what he has done. Only when you see him treasuring you at infinite cost to himself will you start treasuring the needs of your neighbors just at the cost of your money, and it's just money.

Every treasure except Jesus will demand that you die to purchase it. It will drive you. It will say you have to run after it. "You have to do anything to get me."

Jesus is the only treasure that dies for you.

Second- a member of a radically changed community

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Luke 12:32-33

Sell your possessions, don't be afraid.

Seek first the KoG and all these things will be added.

Little flock- he's talking to a group-

This passage started with a family divided. He addresses them as a family of grace.

The flock is how you will be provided for.

Mark 10 - RYR- sell and give to the poor. You get new brothers and sisters

Along with the new community come homes and fields. We must not read these terms any differently than the words *brothers*, *sisters*, and *mothers*. In Jesus' view, when we become part of a new community, we not only share one another's parents and siblings, but we also share one another's homes and possessions.

The reason individual Christians in both Luke 12 and Mark 10 are free to radically give away money when needs are evident is because it is assumed that they are now members of a community that will do the same for them if they should be in want. The only way to be able to

give and share as Jesus directs us is to be part of a community in which no one considers their possessions their own.” Do you see that?

1 Timothy 6:9-19

If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant disagreement among people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth, who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. 8 If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, 19 storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

Hold the Rope

Prayer team