

No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods,
unless he first binds the strong man.
Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Mark

3:20–3





SPOILING GOD'S GRACE

Part 1



PRAYER BLOCKED DO NOT CROSS

1. Hindered Prayers

- “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7)
- *“If it is not possible for a wife to be saved without her husband, how shall the husband be saved if he is inconsiderate and harsh? ... For the man is the head of the woman, and if he neglects her, he ruins everything.” (St. John Chrysostom)*

2. Wisdom Spoiled by Passions

- **“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.”**
(1 Kings 11:4)
- *“To gratify one’s own belly and other desires is to set fire to reason, and the wise man becomes like a beast.”* (St. Basil the Great)

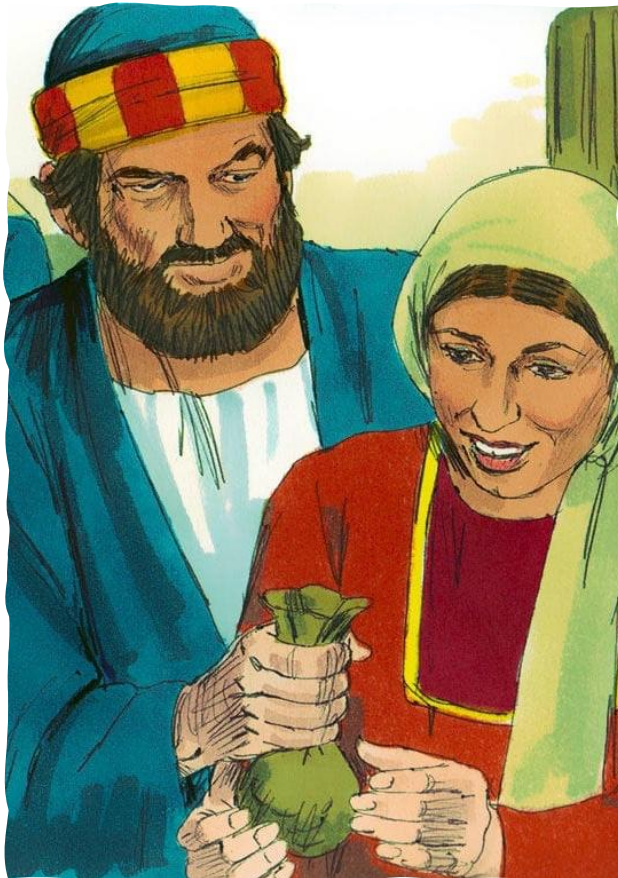


3. Virtue Spoiled by Pride

- EX: The Pharisee & the Publican
- **“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess...I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”** (Luke 18:11–14)
- *“Pride is the cause of every fall: it is the ruin of every virtue; it turns even the good it finds in the soul into evil.”* (St. Antony the Great)



4. Giving Spoiled by Lying



- “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’” (Acts 5:3–4)
- *“He who professes himself to be a Christian ought to be simple and true... Almsgiving cannot cleanse a man whose heart is polluted with falsehood.” (St. Cyprian)*



5. Grace Turned to Condemnation

- **“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” (1 Corinthians 11:27–29)**

6. Fasting Lost by Anger and Quarrels



- **““Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high.” (Isaiah 58:3-4)**
- *“Fasting is useless unless it is united with perfect humility. For what good is it if while abstaining from food we are filled with anger? Such fasting is a devil’s fast.” (St. John Cassian)*



Summary

1. Hindered Prayers
2. Wisdom spoiled by Passions
3. Virtue spoiled by pride
4. Giving spoiled by Lying
5. Grace turned to
condemnation
6. Fasting Lost by Anger and
Quarrels