**(Proverbs 3) John 10**

THE GOOD LIFE

**2––DEADLY SHORTCUTS**

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

**ONE OF THE MOST COMMON WAYS THE ENEMY STEALS AND DESTROYS IS BY LEADING US TO BELIEVE THAT WE KNOW THE WAYS OF LIFE**

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

**EVEN JESUS DID NOT CHOOSE HIS OWN WAY… HE SAID IN…**

**Psalm 16:11 [AND it’s also quoted in Acts 2:28] (NKJV)** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**THAT’S LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY, BUT NOTICE … HE RELIED ON GOD TO SHOW HIM**

**THIS IS WHY WE SEE IN LUKE 5:16…**

**(NKJV)** … He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

**JESUS DIDN’T EVEN CHOOSE THE WORDS HE WOULD SPEAK**

**John 8:26 (NKJV)** “I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”

**ANOTHER PRIMARY WAY THE THIEF STEALS THE GOOD LIFE IS BY PROMISING TO GIVE IT TO US THE EASY WAY**

**Matthew 4:8–10 (NKJV)** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

**Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Philippians 2:8–11 (NKJV)** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**GOD TEACHES US THE TRUE WAYS TO HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE… AND IT’S NOT THROUGH TAKING, BUT RATHER BY GIVING**

**Luke 6:38 (NKJV)** ”Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**THE FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE GENERALLY HAVE THE MOST FRIENDS**

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)** A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**JESUS ALSO TAUGHT US THAT THE WAY TO GREATNESS IS THROUGH SERVING**

**Matthew 20:26 (GW)** But that’s not the way it’s going to be among you. Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant.

**EX – Years ago I read a study that showed that the happiest people in the world were not those who were pursuing pleasure, such as retiring, traveling or partying. On the contrary, the happiest people in the world were those who worked in the service sectors of society … who served people’s needs.**

**ANOTHER WAY THE THIEF STEALS THE GOOD LIFE IS BY TEMPTING US TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON COMFORT AND PLEASURE INSTEAD OF GOD’S CALLING ON OUR LIVES**

**BUT THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT YOU CAN NEVER ATTAIN THE GOOD LIFE GOD HAS FOR YOU BY PURSUING PLEASURES**

**Ecclesiastes 5:10 (GW)** Whoever loves money will never be satisfied with money. Whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with more income. Even this is pointless.

**Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)** … “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

**AND JUST PRACTICALLY, LOVING PLEASURE DOES NOT EVEN LEAD TO WEALTH**

**Proverbs 21:17 (GW)** Whoever loves pleasure will become poor. Whoever loves wine and expensive food will not become rich.

**WHAT DOES GOD TEACH US? HE TEACHES US TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO HIM AND HIS KINGDOM, AND THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR OUR PERSONAL LIVES**

**Matthew 6:32–33 (NKJV)** “… your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”