

DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 3

unleashed  phone

re-read

Let's review what we read Sunday. Read Acts 2:42-47.

reflect

Their Time

What especially strikes you from this story? Write a brief paraphrase in your own words of what is happening.

All Time

What principle(s) can you learn from this passage? Write out the timeless truth(s) from the section you paraphrased above.

My Time

What is the personal application of the all-time principle(s)?

challenge: empty to be filled

This week's theme is **materials**. Affluence can be an affliction that affects our spiritual journey. It can be easy to measure our value and worth by our stuff rather than let our identity rest in the Lord. In doing so, this "stuff" consumes our life that we may miss out on the beautiful simplicity of a Spirit-filled life.

Before diving in, take time to read our memory verse for this week.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. —Matthew 6:19-20

Take an intentional step to cut out some earthly treasure(s) you may store up.

Below are some suggestions on what you could do:

- Donate a significant amount of items in your closet to a local ministry (tip: There is a donation box for Faith Mission in NMC's south parking lot).
- Commit to no unnecessary or extra purchases this week.
- As a family, decide on one material item each member could give away.
- "Purge" your storage area. Donate what can be donated and trash what needs to be trashed.
- Examine your budget to find any areas where you are spending on earthly treasures versus investing in heavenly things. Then adjust accordingly.
- Buy the lunch or coffee of someone in line or sitting next to you.

These are merely suggestions. Your intentional step is your choice and can be something totally different. What is your intentional step going to be? How do you plan to allow this step to create room for the Holy Spirit's move in your life?

learn from others

As you take an intentional step to remove some of the materialism in your life, you are actually taking a step into a spiritual discipline called simplicity. Today, take some time to watch or read (or both) about what this discipline is and why it can be so helpful to experience the unleashing of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Discipline of Simplicity by Richard Foster

Read the article by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/NMCSimplicity1>

Video from the Salvation Army's Center for Spiritual Development

Watch this video by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/NMCMaterial1>

reflect

As you watched the video and/or read the article, what did you learn, or what especially struck you about the discipline of simplicity?

words to remember

Each week, we will focus on a promise or commandment from Scripture that ties to that week's theme. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Word. Commit these verses to memory. If you were at NMC on Sunday, you should have received a ring with cards on it. These cards contain the verses for the entire series and can be used to help you memorize each week's theme. If you did not pick up a ring, you can find digital copies of these cards on our app under the "Sermon Resources" tab or on our website. You can always pick up physical copies at the Ministry Center at NMC.

This week's verse:

**Do not store up for yourselves
treasures on earth, where moth and
rust destroy, and where thieves
break in and steal. But store up for
yourselves treasures in heaven, where
moth and rust do not destroy, and
where thieves do not break in
and steal.**
Matthew 6:19-20

reflect

These verses are part of what is known as "The Sermon on the Mount" found in Matthew 5-7. To gain context on this verse, read Matthew 6:19-24. What struck you as you read this larger section?

Verse 21 is very significant. In your own words, what is Jesus saying?

In what ways do you see yourself trying to "serve two masters" as verse 24 outlines?

As you practice your intentional step of removing materialism and embracing simplicity, allow this verse to be on the forefront of your mind.

Digging Deeper: Unleashed Stories



Every week, we will talk with different people in the NMC family who have experienced or are experiencing their own journey of being the Church *Unleashed*. Listen to it on:

- **Our app:** Tap “Sermon Resources” on the home page
- **Our website:** nmc.church/media/sermon-resources
- **Our Facebook Page:** facebook.com/nmconline
- **iTunes:** Subscribe to the *NMC Digging Deeper* podcast

reflect

Write out any impressions or takeaways from this week’s conversation below.

lessons from Scripture

Take some time to read these other verses/passages that speak toward the danger of materialism and the importance of simplicity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Mark 8:36

Luke 12:15

Hebrews 13:5

2 Corinthians 4:18

Go back to Matthew 6:19-20, and do the following:

1. Memorize it.
2. Turn it into a prayer.

pre-read

Take some time to prepare for week three of our study by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will cover.

Read Acts 3.

reflect

! How do you see our *Unleashed* theme being carried out in this part of the story?

" " What is one verse or section that especially resonates with you?

? What is one question that comes up for you in this Scripture?

app

You can work through this devotional week-by-week on our app! Each day will save to your phone, even after you close the app. Just tap on **Sermon Resources** on the home page, and you'll find this devotional, each week's verse, and the *NMC Digging Deeper* podcast.



The Nappanee Missionary Church App

Available in App Stores



weekly verses

Each week, we will focus on one verse that reinforces that week's theme. These verses will be posted on our social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) and on our app. Physical copies will also be available at the Ministry Center. Take one for yourself, a family member, and a friend, and let's be the Church *Unleashed* together!

Digging Deeper: Unleashed Stories

Digging Deeper is a NMC podcast that explores this series on a deeper level. Every week, we will talk with different people in the NMC family who have experienced or are experiencing their own journey of being the Church *Unleashed*.

This podcast will be released every Thursday and can be accessed on the following platforms:

- **App:** Tap "Sermon Resources" on the homepage
- **iTunes:** Subscribe to the *NMC Digging Deeper* podcast
- **NMC Website:** Visit nmc.church/media/sermon-resources
- **Facebook:** Visit facebook.com/nmconline