

becoming MORE *Beautiful*

workbook



Pursuing Jesus When Everything Else Is Window Dressing (Part 2)

A BIBLE STUDY AT HOME
FOR SINGLE WOMEN

What bright shiny object is your heart shopping for?

In his book, *Shiny Objects: Why We Spend Money We Don't Have in Search of Happiness We Can't Buy*, James Roberts asks, "Given that most Americans would readily admit that money and material possessions are not going to make us happy, why do we continue to act as if they will?"

Bright shiny objects are not all the same. They will be different things to different people. The enemy dangles them in front of us to get us dissatisfied or distracted in our pursuit of Jesus.

Psalm 90:14 says, Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Prior to the pandemic, it was rare that I would pass on the chance to go inside my favorite retail store to shop for bright shiny objects. Driving pass the store the other day, I noticed the mannequin on display in the window wearing the cutest spring dress and sandals.

The dictionary defines "bright shiny object" as the distracting item, person, or activity that keeps you from doing what you should be doing.

Bright shiny object is also a syndrome for many entrepreneurs who constantly see opportunities for their business that they end up chasing after. Often the things they end up chasing after on the surface look appealing but upon evaluation prove to be a distraction or simply not a good fit.

Do you think the bright shiny syndrome is reserved only for companies?

What are the bright shiny objects that we chase after?

Can they be good or godly things?

What is the danger of being lured by bright shiny objects that keep us from pursuing Jesus?

A bright shiny object is like an idol. Timothy Keller defines an idol in this way: It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. ... An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure." ... [An idol] is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.

Idolatry is making a good thing an ultimate thing. If we are honest, we all have idols in our lives. Deuteronomy 4:16-19 tells us:

So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in any form—whether of a man or a woman, an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky, a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea. And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don't be seduced into worshiping them.

Read Exodus 20:3-5 and 34:14. It is clear that God wants to be first place in our lives.

What does it mean that God is a jealous God?

What gods or idols do single women struggle with the most?

Is the notion that we need to be in a relationship or married to be happy at the top of the list?

Complete this sentence: If only I had _____, then I would be happy and satisfied.

How have you been managing your unhappiness?

Are there times when your unhappiness is harder to navigate?

When are those times?

Whether a bright shiny object or an idol, both are strongly comparable to window dressing. As mentioned in Part 1 of this study, the quote by Jayson D. Bradley about window dressing is my favorite and speaks volumes.

*The pursuit of Jesus Christ is your true testimony,
everything else is window dressing.*

Jayson D. Bradley

Let's begin to go deeper into understanding what is window dressing and how does it affect your pursuit of Jesus Christ.

The definition of window dressing is:

1 : the display of merchandise in a retail store window

2a : the act or an instance of making something appear deceptively attractive or favorable

b : something used to create a deceptively favorable or attractive impression

A display is a visual merchandising term that refers to the intentional arrangement of goods. Visual merchandising sometimes relies on props for effective displays. The word “props” refers to items that aren’t necessarily for sale, but help demonstrate the desirability of a product. For example, a furniture store might hang wall mirrors or watercolor paintings above couch and dining room table displays so that customers can envision what the furniture might look like in a home setting.

How has your heart for window dressing shopping affected your pursuit of Jesus?

This journey of pursuing Jesus during quarantine to become more like him is a process of letting go of some people and some things that are more attractive and appealing than Jesus.

Are you ready to make Jesus your treasure? Matthew 6:21 beautifully says, For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

