

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PREDICTING ≡ YOUR ≡ FUTURE

PART 4: APPEALING IS REVEALING

INTRODUCTION

The best way to predict your future is to pay attention to where you're headed. But sometimes it's easy to get distracted by what's on the path. The appeal of money, acceptance, or security can lower your defenses and lead you away from the path you want to be on. So is there a way back? How do we change course when we realize that we've chosen a path that leads us to what's appealing instead of what's ultimately satisfying?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you ignored common sense or advice and bought (or bought into) something because of its emotional appeal. (*New! Bigger! 25% More!*)
2. What's the difference between living a life that's appealing and one that's satisfying? How have you been affected by someone who consistently chose appeal instead of satisfaction?
3. **Read Galatians 5:13–14.**
Many people struggle with a version of Christianity that's tied to obeying a long list of rules. How does Paul say the entire law is summarized? How would embracing this idea change the way you live and make decisions? How would the people closest to you be affected if you lived in this way?
4. **Read Galatians 5:16–17.**
If we'll give into the internal leading of God, he will always nudge us towards selflessness. Has there been a time when you felt that nudge and either ignored it or listened to it? What happened?
5. Make your own list of the "acts of the selfishness"? How have you been affected personally by someone's decision (maybe your own) to indulge in these areas?
6. What (or who) in your life have you become so enamored with that you've failed to recognize where the path you're on is taking you? Who has permission to challenge you in this area? Are you willing to reverse course and begin living in a different direction? How can our group help?

MOVING FORWARD

The path to be avoided is always paved with strong emotional appeal. Your heavenly father hopes that you'll opt for satisfying over appealing. Will you choose to give in to that internal nudge? Choose to say no to *you* and follow Jesus, who loves you, who gave his life for you, and who rose from the dead to punctuate that claim.