

Life Group Lesson

October 3, 2010

“Treasures in Heaven”

Key Scripture: Matt. 6: 19-24

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had someone steal something from you? How did it make you feel?
2. What would you save in the event of your house catching fire? All people and pets are safe, and you have time to safely make sure that one or two things are safe. What would they be?

ILLUSTRATION

One day a certain old, rich man of a miserable disposition visited a rabbi, who took the rich man by the hand and led him to a window. "Look out there," he said. The rich man looked into the street. "What do you see?" asked the rabbi. "I see men, women, and children," answered the rich man. Again the rabbi took him by the hand and this time led him to a mirror. "Now what do you see?" "Now I see myself," the rich man replied. Then the rabbi said, "Behold, in the window there is glass, and in the mirror there is glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver, and no sooner is the silver added than you cease to see others, but you see only yourself."

(USE SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS TO KICKOFF YOUR DISCUSSION TIME)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does Jesus mean when he describes earthly treasure with “moths, rust and thieves”?
2. Where is your heart? (see verse 21)
3. Where is the concentration and the preoccupation of your life?
4. What particular object do you spend most of your thinking, planning, and energy on?
5. What is “treasure in heaven”?
6. What is the root of all evil? (see 1 Timothy 6:10a).
7. Some say coins are flat so they can be stacked. Others say they are round so they can roll. Perspective is everything. What is your perspective of the money God has given you?
8. Is Jesus forbidding bank accounts, savings, or investments? Why did Jesus tell the rich young ruler to sell all he owned (Matthew 19:21)?
9. How can money become your god?
10. Read Proverbs 30:8-9 and discuss its meaning.
11. How do we build up “treasure in heaven”?
12. Are you constantly worrying about money? (making more, not having enough, promotion, etc.)
13. Some say they are accumulating wealth to leave to their kids when they are gone. At what price are you doing this? Besides money, what would they need from you more?

APPLICATION (Transformation)

Memorize this scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether, therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

SUGGESTIONS FOR REARRANGING PRIORITIES TOWARD HEAVENLY TREASURE

1. Build generosity into your budget. Budget for giving to the church and those in need.
2. Give time and money to organizations to help those in need (shelters, food banks, etc.)
3. Sell stuff you really don't need and use it to help a hurting family.
4. Join Financial Peace University in January to learn about biblical finances.
5. Think twice – about promotion, purchases, about possessions.
6. Find out what "prized possessions" you own. Ask yourself if you could give these up if God asked you to invest into His Kingdom or someone in need.
7. What are your suggestion?