

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/19/17

Text: Luke 12:13-21

Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Tim continued our series on the Seven Deadly Sins with the sin of Greed. Greed is finding our hope in our possessions; valuing stuff above people and God. Rich or poor we can treat possessions as the solution to any problem, and this will ultimately kill love. Our problem is that we are guilty of loving stuff more than God, and the stuff we put our hope in eventually loses its value and runs out. The solution, as Tim taught us, is that Jesus has dealt with both our guilt before the God who owns us, and he provides a treasure that never runs out. The result is that we can live Just and Generous. We can love God and people more than stuff, can ask without demanding, and can be rich toward God, valuing Him more than anything else in this world.

Reflection Questions:

- (Tim said that greed is the founding of our hope in possessions. In our greed we have told God, "I'd rather have the stuff than have Him." And as Tim said, the man in the passage questioning Jesus would rather have the money from his brother than be connected to his family. His greed has killed his love.)*

 - What things in your life are you prone to treat as more important than your relationship with God or with people? (Why?)**
- (Tim quoted T.W. Manson saying, "It is true that a certain minimum of material goods is necessary for life; but it is not true that greater abundance of goods means greater abundance of life.")*

 - What material possession or circumstance have you recently told yourself that if you had it (or had more of it), it would make your life so much better? (Why?)**
 - What material possession or circumstance have you recently told yourself that if you lost it, it would be devastating? (Why?)**
- (The beauty of the generosity of God gives a hope that no thing can ever give. Once it's no longer about my stuff or my circumstances, then I am truly free to love and do good for anyone. We realize He has freely given us everything, so we can freely give anything.)*

 - What would it take for you to truly be able to say, "Even if I lost everything I have, I would still have all I need in Jesus?"**

The Facilitator

A.C.T.S.

(Take some time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship the LORD that He has given us nothing less than His Son on the Cross and His Spirit to live in us. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His generosity, especially in light of our greed and selfishness.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

How have you lived loving things more than your neighbor, and loving yourself more than God? Confess your arrogance and self-inflation to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to change you to be genuinely loving.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus when His life was required of Him, to save us, He did not hesitate to give. Thank Him for letting go of His privileges to bless us when we've forfeited any rights to any wealth or any privilege.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love and joy. Pray that He would help you to be so filled with God's lavish generosity toward you that, overflowing with His love, you'd grow more and more generous.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through today's passage(s)?

Who do you know that struggles with greed (and they don't have to be wealthy)? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them to see His generosity and grace, and to turn from their selfish way of living.