

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

5/7/17

Text: Deuteronomy 17:15-17, 1 Kings 4:26, 6:37-7:1

Title: Stewardship #2 - The Dangers of Wealth

Teacher: Tim Rice

Foreword (Please read this to your group before you begin): We should always seek an atmosphere of grace and humility in our Community Group discussions, and all the more when it comes to the touchy subject of money. The Community Group is the place we've committed ourselves to build "Christian Community" to not only love one another, but also encourage one another to faithfulness to God. As Tim said, we saw a generation where parents didn't talk to their kids about sex, and now we live in a culture that is sexually broken. So in that same light, we want to seek to be open and honest about our finances with our Christian Brothers and Sisters, allowing for brokenness and sin, and always looking to the hope that Jesus offers. When He sees our mess, rather than "shriek, puke and run" He looks intently and says, "I love you." Let's do the same for our groups.

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 three-part series on stewardship discussing the dangers of wealth. In his sermon we saw how Solomon, who was the wisest person in the world, was seduced by wealth. Tim described the three things that overtook Solomon, which are most likely to overtake and seduce us as well; Power, Money and Love. What we need Holy Spirit to reveal to us is that Jesus offers Greater eternal Riches, he offers a Greater Power as our king, and he offers a Greater Love. The question is can we see where we are "hooked" on the things of this world, can we admit it to Jesus and still hear him offer hope and say "I love you", and can we see the greater wisdom that he offers?

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said the 3 things that will seduce us away from God are Power, Money and Love (Pleasure).*
 - **How have you seen Power, Money or Love seduce you or your loved ones away from the Lord?**
 - **How have you seen yourself or someone else become a dragon with your wealth, like Eustace from the Chronicles of Narnia?**
2. *The saying, "we vote with our wallet" is absolutely true. If you don't give your time or your money to something it's because you don't love it, you love something else more, (In the spirit of honesty, not to create guilt, but with the purpose of encouraging one another to faithfulness...here come the hard questions)*

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- Does anyone besides your spouse and your CPA know what you earn?
 - Does anyone know what you give away, both to the church and to any other organization or cause?
 - Would you share those two things with your group?
 - Why have you made those choices with your money?
3. *Tim said last week that looking at Creation we'll realize we "ought to give", and now looking at our sinfulness we see that we "need to give." The only way to break the hold that treasures have on my heart is to give them away.*
- What do you love that has gotten in the way of loving God and being generous toward his people and his kingdom?
 - How can you, as a Community Group, help each other grow and recognize where you've fallen in love with Money, Power or Love/Pleasure?
4. *Jesus offers us a Greater Wisdom than this world. We get a Greater Perspective (putting people before things), a Greater Proportion (that the percentage is not the goal, but is a starting point for our generosity), and a Greater Purpose (to live for and invest in God's kingdom as Spiritual Warriors).*
- When Jesus looks intently at your sin and chooses to love you and suffer for you, how does that change your view of your wealth (\$, Power, Love)?
 - What do you need Holy Spirit to do in your heart to help you see the greater wisdom found in Jesus?

A.C.T.S.

(Take time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas, then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group. Begin with the ACTS questions and use the prayer items from the worship folder as suggestions if you're having a hard time coming up with answers.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?

Worship the LORD for His prioritizing people above all other created things. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His love and for how He put His treasure where His heart is.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?

How have you lived intoxicated by earthy riches and blind to their power to drain you spiritually? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and save you from their enslaving chains.

3. THANKSGIVING

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

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Thank Jesus for setting aside all of His heavenly privileges (power, wealth, beauty, attention) to come to our rescue. Give thanks to Him that “when you see him dying to make you his treasure, that can make him yours.”

4. SUPPLICATION

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

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the ability to discern what is temporary vs. what is eternal. Pray for the faith and courage to set your hope on Christ and eternity rather than what fades and disappoints.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that is enslaved by earthly riches? Pray for them, asking the Lord to make His love and surpassing worth known to them, and that He would help you to love them well vs. using them for access to their wealth.