

Life Group Homework

For the week of March 12, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you personally about throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) Did you do something different in your family because of last week's study, and if so, will you share it with your group?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 13:44-46

⁴⁴ "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

- 5) What is treasure?
- 6) Why is treasure so valuable to people?
- 7) Sometimes people have different views about what the Kingdom of Heaven is. What are some of the images or things we think of when we think about the Kingdom of Heaven?
- 8) What is Jesus teaching us about the value of heaven?

Mark Clark, the senior pastor of the City Church in Canada, says this, "Trying to use the Gospel as behavioral modification is a dead idea. The Gospel has to win the hearts of people." If a person is simply trying to change to be a good Christian but Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven don't possess their heart, they won't have lasting change. We change for the things we treasure. People will rearrange their lives for things they truly value.

- 9) What are some of the things stopping people's hearts from knowing and being captivated by the Kingdom of Heaven?

Below is a thought from Randy Alcorn on Heaven.

We won't miss our old lives.

Have you ever bought an economy ticket for a flight, but because of overbooking, been upgraded to first class? Did you regret the upgrade? Did you spend your time wondering, *What am I missing by not being in the back of the plane?* The upgrade from Earth to heaven will be vastly superior to that from economy to first class. If we would miss something from our old lives, it would be available to us in heaven. Why? Because we will experience all God intends for us. He fashions us to want precisely what He will give us so what He gives us will be exactly what we want.

- 10) How would your world be different if the Kingdom of God was your sole treasure?

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 25:14-25

¹⁴ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' ²¹ "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' ²² "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' ²³ "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' ²⁴ "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate.

²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.”

- 11) What does the master entrust to his servants before he goes away?
- 12) What are the master's expectations with giving different amounts to each servant?
- 13) What are the treasures God has given each of us to work with?
- 14) What are some common reasons given by Christians for not investing their treasure?
- 15) What is within your hands?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

We have spent several weeks discussing the idea of values; this is in essence, our treasure. Last week we asked questions about what we are passionate about. This week in your Chair Time, review your values and ask yourself the following questions.

- 16) Do my values line up with the words of Jesus regarding the Kingdom of Heaven?
- 17) What small treasures of this earth am I willing to give up so I treasure the Kingdom of Heaven first?

Read Psalm 84 and think about the implications considering this week's study.

TOO COMFORTABLE?

When my comfort meets God's challenges

Wk 1: Treasure

Pastor Craig Sweeney

** Thanks to Randy Alcorn and his book "The Treasure Principle"*

One Main Point: God challenges His followers to think **differently** about treasure.

My goal for you: To be **free**.

2 Points about Treasure:

Matthew 13:44

Point #1: We exchange treasure of **lesser** value for treasure of **greater** value.

Matthew 25:20-30

Point #2: We all have **something** in our **hands** to **work** with.

2 Questions about Treasure:

1. What is in **my hands**?
2. Am I **willing** to hear what God has to say about the **treasure** in my hands?
 1. This is about understanding its value to **me**, my **family** and the **mission** of God.

Matthew 19:23-27...Forget my **gut**, I'm checking my **heart**.