

## Life Group Homework

For the week of November 5, 2017

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### MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) From last week's study, what did you learn about living a generous life?

### QUICK REVIEW

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

### DIGGING DEEPER

#### Matthew 6:19-27(NLT)

<sup>19</sup> "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

<sup>22</sup> "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

<sup>25</sup> "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

- 4) What do you think Jesus is referring to when He discusses *treasure*?
- 5) What does the passage say about our hearts and treasure?
- 6) Jesus makes the connection of our treasure to our hearts; what does He mean?
- 7) In Verse 22 Jesus makes the comparison of treasure and the eye. What do you think He means, and why the eye specifically?
- 8) In what ways can money become our master?
- 9) According to the passage, why can't a person serve two masters?
- 10) What does Jesus tell us to do in the previous verses to help us to not serve two masters?

- 11) How does worry connect to the slave mentality we have been discussing over the past several weeks?

- 12) Why would worry lead to money becoming our master?

### TAKING IT HOME

One of my favorite word pictures is this: Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere. From the heart of Christ, we learn that worry is much more insidious. Worry will lead to money becoming our master. We will love one master and hate the other. I must be honest, these words are convicting to me. I have believed the lie that worry is not that big of a deal. However, it is and many of us fall into the trap of worry. Trust is the antidote for the lie that it's good to worry about life. The pragmatic among us will argue that worry is good because it helps me take care of the things that need to be done. I would substitute "wisdom and good planning" for their definition of worry because once those things are done, we trust God for the results. Worry is not taking care of the details, it's overthinking and not trusting God's provision and goodness. It's sitting in that rocking chair and going back and forth, but never moving into the freedom God wants to provide us.

#### Matthew 6:28-34 (NLT)

<sup>28</sup> "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God\* above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

- 13) In what ways has worry been a challenge for you? Have you had success in overcoming it? If so, how?
- 14) From the passage in Mathew, where does Jesus tell us to look as our example of God's provision?
- 15) Heart check, ready . . . where is your treasure? This is not intended to bring guilt but to challenge us to trust.
- 16) What can we let go of to trust God and worry less?

**CHAIR TIME TOOL**

Read Matthew Chapter 6.

- 17) What does Jesus want us to shift in our lives?
- 18) What can you surrender to Christ that needs to change?

**Passage:** Luke 19:1–10 The Story of Zacchaeus

**We learn from this passage:**

- Zacchaeus was living with a **scarcity** mindset.
- Jesus generously **gave** His time and talent by going to his **home**.
- When Zacchaeus took his eyes off what others **had** and what he **wanted**, he began to see with **clearer** eyes.
- **GENEROSITY** was his response to God's **generosity**!
- Zacchaeus had a **turn** of the **heart**.
- When Zacchaeus' heart **turned**, so did his **eyes**.

**Last week we examined the parable of the BAGS of SILVER (Matthew 25)**

Jesus **taught** "to the **TEST**"!

**It's about our hearts!**

- They possessed a desire to **please** the master.
- Generosity was their response to God's generosity.
- Generosity was not based on how MUCH was in their hands, it was based on how MUCH was in their **hearts**.

***Do I need a turn of the heart?***

**Perspectives I will NEED:**

Mine:

- My generosity is not **legalism**. It's the answer to the question that a **grateful** heart asks: "How do I honor God with my life?"
- God is not **taking** anything from me. "I am **returning an intentional portion back to God**."
- I want to be a good **steward** of what God has put in my **hands** - time, talent, treasure. "I put enough in your hands to steward":  
God's **MISSION** = First 10%  
**Live** off the remaining 90%
- My **obedience** has an **eternal** return!  
The souls of men, women, teens and children.

God's:

- God wants to "**BLESS**" you, give you **more**.