

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

What About My Money?

October 28, 2018



This week's sermon was on Matthew 26:1-16. Givers and Takers.

Two Contrasting Characters: Mary and Judas

Questions:

1. **What thoughts and reactions do you have from hearing this week's message?**
2. **How does our use of money reveal our heart's desires?**
3. **"The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil." (I Tim 6:10) Are you the kind of person who loves money? Don't let yourself off of the hook too quickly!**

Sermon Outline:



1. How can we get Jesus OUT of our lives? (v.1-5)
 - a. Some see Jesus as a threat to what they have.
Question: What is the threat that they envision?
2. How generous can I be with Jesus? (v.6-13)
 - a. The cross is the ultimate example of giving. "When you truly understand what Christ did on the cross, you can't help but be a giver."
 - b. Mary's extravagant gift toward Jesus was objected to by Judas (John 12:4-6)
Question: What did he state as his objection and what was his true objection?
 - c. Mary's giving revealed much about her heart:
 - i. She gave her best
 - ii. She gave lavishly/extravagantly
 - iii. She gave in spite of criticism
 - iv. She gave lovingly
 - v. She was honored by Jesus for her act of worship (v.10)
3. How much can I get from Jesus? (v.14-16)
 - a. There is a prophecy in Psalm 41:9 about Judas. This passage shows the fulfillment of it as Judas becomes the betrayer.
 - b. Judas's betrayal reveals much about his heart:
 - i. His concern was only for his own needs and desires.
 - ii. He consumed without contributing.
 - iii. His criticism revealed his own warped priorities.
 - iv. His selfishness with resources lead to a HARD HEART toward Christ. Giving and Trust go hand-in-hand.

Questions:

1. **As we look at both Mary and Judas, can we honestly assess our hearts to see how attitudes from each of them are present in our own lives?**
2. **Pastor Doug gave a challenge to tithe or to give something. Do you think there will be a change in your giving habits in the near future?**



The Question:

You might stumble over a word, a verse, a connection to another part of the Bible, or something the pastor says and this is a good time to talk about these things. With every question you ask, try and answer it yourself before bringing it to the group. The deepest and most lasting learning we do sometimes comes when we challenge ourselves to search for an answer to our own question. Stop, pray, ask, and do your best. Then turn to others for the answer or to share how you've grown. **Do you have any questions about this week's topic to bring up with the group?**



The Cross:

We should be constantly thinking about Christ when we read our Bibles and in Small Groups we should be Christ-focused.

So much of our anxiety and misguided behavior around money comes from our fear of not having enough for our needs. But as was mentioned in the message, giving and trust go hand-in-hand.

Read Matthew 6:19-34. Jesus himself speaks to this issue and of his ever-present care for us and our needs. **Question: If we believe that the God who has made all things and owns all things will provide for us, what is still causing us to worry?**

The Application:



As we read the Bible and sit under solid biblical teaching our goal is to be transformed into Christ's likeness and become doers of the Word. This happens through applying what we are learning to our daily lives.

The Christian's role with regard to money and property is not ownership, but that of a "steward." A steward is one who manages the property that belongs to another. We do not have "rights" to do with it as we please, but rather have "responsibilities" to use it for his glory.

1. Stewardship is about more than just our cash. **Question: List as many things as you can that we are to steward responsibly.**
2. **Question: Is stewardship only an individual responsibility, or is there a collective responsibility also? What are things that should be stewarded collectively?**
3. Generosity is the response of a grateful heart. **As we approach Thanksgiving, begin to reflect on everything that you have received – life and breath, love, forgiveness, material things – and how you can be generous in light of everything you have received.**



The Conversation:

Let's become outwardly focused in our faith. As we experience transformation we want to be sharing with those people God has placed around us. There is something from every week we can bring to a conversation. Identify a specific person you might connect with in the next week, and think about a time you could bring this particular truth up with them. It can be a believer or not, the important thing is to be sharing with someone outside of LOC. Write their name down in the Notes section.