

life group study guide

August 30, 2015

MONEY: God or Gift?

Introduction, Chapters 1, 2 and 3

“Then he told them a story: A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself: My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink and be merry!’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you have worked for?’

Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.

Then, turning to His disciples, Jesus said, ‘That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?

Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Luke 12: 16-34

Describe the rich farmer’s prosperity. What demonstrates his emphasis on physical things? What happened to demonstrate he was foolish?

life group study guide



List several lessons we should learn about the inadequacy of material things and trusting material things. How does this manifest itself in 21st century America?

What should we NOT worry about, particularly in a period of economic downturn such as we are currently seeing? What is more important than these things, and how do we remain focused on that in the light of discouraging practical matters?

How do birds and flowers illustrate that we need not worry? Is it realistic to look at other created things and put them on the same plane with human beings? Isn't the life of a bird or a flower considerably less complicated?

Can worry improve our physical status? What can we learn?

We all claim to know what priority we should pursue rather than material things. Isn't it a lot easier to pursue God when our practical circumstances are well in hand? Share other Scriptures about spiritual priorities.

What does our Heavenly Father promise to give us if we are obedient in this area of our lives? When and how is this promise fulfilled?

We profess to know where our treasure should be. How do we place treasures there? And why should we seek that kind of treasure?

life group study guide