

life groups discussion guide

series: money: god or gift



September 6, 2015

Reading

Mark 8:36-37

In Chapter 4 of *Money: God or Gift*, Jim Munson, summarizes Jesus' words by saying, "Do not pursue money in such a way or to the extent that you forget about the eternal implications of your present actions."

Discussion:

How is this an accurate re-wording of Mark 8?

In what ways are we tempted to "gain the whole world" in exchange for our souls? Discuss why "the whole world" or whatever we desire, isn't worth it.

Munson goes on to say, "Money is a byproduct of work, not the goal of work. Human passion, drive, and ingenuity serve as an incredible testimony to the blessing and creativity of God, who gave us a mind we can use to accomplish amazing things. Though we can never out-build the God who fashioned the infinite expanse of the cosmos, the variety and scope of all that mankind has accomplished is nonetheless staggering, from art and athletic feats, to skyscrapers and space travel." Tim Keller is quoted as saying, "Work is as much a basic human need as food, beauty, rest, friendship, prayer, and sexuality; it is not simply medicine but food for our soul. Without meaningful work we sense significant inner loss and emptiness"...

"Since the primary purpose of work is not to make money, God dignifies non-paid jobs like homemakers and volunteers. "According to the Bible," Keller writes, "we don't merely need the money from work to survive; we need the work itself to survive and live fully human lives."

Discussion:

How do these passages challenge you in relation to how you view your job?

How can this perspective differentiate you from non-believers who do not have an eternal perspective?

Jesus' words from Mark 8 are instructional guidelines that remind us to keep an eternal viewpoint, but should not be taken as a license to be lazy.

Reading

Prov 6:6-11

Prov 10:2-5

2 Thes 3:10-13

Discussion:

*Talk about how these scriptures should influence our work ethic.
How do we balance being hard workers and not become workaholics?*

Reading

Prov 22:7

Being in debt has just become a normal part of modern day American living. Muson says, "Despite this warning, the temptation to spend, spend, spend is so strong that many of us close the shackles around our own wrists... The temptation for more will never go away, but we indulge it at significant risk. For "it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

Discussion:

How do we consistently rationalize the shackles we use on ourselves? How can we loosen these shackles and grow towards a place of contentment?

Reading

1 Tim 6:6-9

The contentment spoken of in Timothy requires the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit—especially for we the people of Western affluence. A good place to start is with the prayer found in

Proverbs 30:

Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is needful for me, Lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Closing Prayer

Read Proverbs 30:8-9