



## Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

### From Message on: 9/20/20

#### Optional Opener Question

Did you have an allowance while growing up? Did you have to earn it? How did you like to spend it?

#### Introductory Thought

Paradoxes are seemingly self-contradictory statements that might seem to go against the grain of our culture. This week we looked at the Paradox of Wealth. The world wants us to believe that wealth and money are a goal to be pursued & attained; God says that wealth and money are only a tool to be used in God's promised abundant life.

#### Discussion Questions

- In what ways does society define us by the things we possess: our house, our car, our retirement portfolio, our families, our vacations, our things? In what ways do we define ourselves by those things?
- Jesus said in Luke 12:13-15 to "guard against every kind of greed." If Jesus said it, it must be important! What do you think Jesus meant by that? What kinds of greed are there? How do I guard? What does it mean to stand guard a treasure from a thief? What does it look like to stand guard over a garden, keeping the weeds out? What does it look like to stand guard over the children on a playground?
- Jesus also talked about treasures in Matthew 6:19-21. Play Jeopardy for a minute: if this is the answer, what's the question? Come up with a few questions. What insights do you get from both the questions and the answer?
- An extremely wealthy man in his time, King Solomon wrote 3 books of our Bible: Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. All 3 are full of observations of life: good, bad and everything in between. He wrote often about money and wealth. How do these verses add to our discussion?
  - Ecc 5:13-14    Prov 30:8-9    Prov 18:11
- *Digging deeper: read through Proverbs & mark each reference to money, riches, wealth, etc. See a pattern?*
- Solomon's overall conclusion: Ecc 5:19. What truth is he trying to convey?
- Read Ps 37:4. What are the desires of my heart? How do I know what I want? Is this a "blank check" from God? How do the desires of my heart change as I grow closer to Him?
- Read Colossians 3:5 – stop for a minute on "greed, which is idolatry." What do you think that Paul meant by this? How could greed turn into idolatry? Is it possible to feel that God is "holding out on me," by withholding the good stuff of life? How do I recognize that feeling?
- How are these verses a warning to us:
  - Ezek 33:31    Deut 8:13-14    Matt 19:23-24
  - I Tim 6:9    Ps 52:7
- Compare Prov 6:6-8 is a great verse for retirement. But so is I Tim 6:17. How could you reconcile the two? How do I decide when "enough" is enough? How could a person lose track of the purpose of accumulating and start focusing on the accumulating itself?
- Job is a person who was extremely wealthy and lost everything yet did not turn his back on God. Read his thoughts as he struggled with his loss: Job 31:24-28. Be sure to notice the word "IF." Why do you think each "IF" meant he would have been unfaithful to God? In what way?
- The most misquoted verse in the Bible is I Tim 6:10. What word does the world leave off? Is God really against having lots of money?

#### Practical Application & Next Steps

- Is God pushing you in the area of your attitude toward your earthly resources? Do you own them or do they own you? What do you need to do to bring them back into a healthy alignment with your devotion to God?
- In what ways has your earthly comfortableness affected your ability to trust God for your future? What will you do with these insights?