

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Pastor Ruben said, "Your attitude towards money exposes your relationship with God. It reveals your trust in God, your faith in God, and your worship to God." Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?

2. Who comes to your mind as the top philanthropist of our time? What are some of their charities?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read Luke 12:13-15.
 - a. What do you think about Jesus' response?
 - b. How would you define greed?
 - c. Do you struggle with church's talk about money?
 - d. Can they talk too much about money?
 - e. When do they cross the line?
 - f. Would you leave a church if they talked about money too much...according to your standards?

4. Read Luke 12:16-21.
 - a. What does verse 21 mean to you?
 - b. What kind of power does money have over people?
 - c. How is greed and materialism prevalent?
 - d. How does it drive your decisions in life?

5. Read Luke 12:22-34.
 - a. What is the treasure of your heart?
 - b. What in you life do you find the most pleasure, where money is never an issue?
 - c. What's the desires of your heart?
 - d. Compare with Augustine's quote, "Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.

6. Pastor Ruben shared what money is NOT. Please read these five points and look up corresponding verses. Discuss each point with your group!

- 1) Money is not a bad thing. (Gen 13:2).
- 2) Money is not your God to be worshipped (1 Tim 6:10; Lk 16:13).
- 3) Money is not your self worth (Deut 8:16-18)
- 4) Money is not necessarily a reward for godly living (Heb 11:7-8)
- 5) Money is not a guarantee for contentment or happiness (Eccl 5:10)

7. According to Lk 16:11-12, what is the purpose of money?

8. According to 2 Cor 9:7, what kind of attitude should we have about giving?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

John Ortberg talked about Four Levels of Giving...

- The first level is a Chip-In Giver.
Somebody comes to the Lord and they start coming to church. Before long they think, "You know, I guess it costs something to run this place." So, they say, "I'll put in a \$20. I'll put in a little bit. I'll chip in." It's a "CHIIP IN" or starter mentality.
- The second level is the Crisis Giver.
This is the person who gives to tornado victims in Houston after the floods. He or she responds to human suffering and that is good, but many times it is sporadic. It's all based on what YOU decide is important.
- The third level is a Systematic Giver.
This is when the tithe is understood as a teaching of Scripture. This person believes and accepts that we are to give ten percent of all that God has given us to bless the Lord, and build the Church, etc.
- The fourth level is a Spirit-Directed Giver.
They revisit their budget, their lifestyle, and they consider ways to give above and beyond the systematic tithe.