

April 29, 2018

### **Message - Based Questions**

Searching for Happiness: Myth of Money

Luke 16: 1-13

1. Think about a time you thought a material possession would make you happy? Did you acquire it? If so, how long did your happiness last?
2. In our society, the idea of being “self-made” -- the pride of having earned all we have, and the expectation that others live by similar standards -- is considered a core value for good, responsible citizens, perhaps especially by Christians. (Scripture is often cited in support of this -- see 2 Thessalonians 3:10 and 1 Corinthians 9:13-15, for example).  
  
Is there a point at which this cultural way of thinking about money/material possessions becomes incompatible with passages such as Luke 16, which characterize God’s people as stewards who are actually managing God’s wealth and possessions on His behalf?  
How do you balance these ideas?
3. Does the message of the parable in Luke 16, particularly in v. 9 (“I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves...”) seem surprising or odd within the context of other biblical teachings? Why or why not?  
What does Luke 16 teach us about the role of money in God’s kingdom?
4. Read Luke 18:18-29.  
To what degree do you think that the principle of Jesus’ command found in verse 22 should apply to all Christ followers? What do you think the man “lacked”?  
You may or may not consider yourself “rich”, but how do you relate to the ruler’s attachment to money and possessions?
5. Generosity, wise money management/saving, and the contentment necessary to “live within your means” are all components of biblical financial peace. Other than income itself, is there anything you would add to that list?  
Are any of those things particularly difficult for you? Why?
6. What are two practical ways that you can better manage the financial resources that you have been blessed with? Do you believe that doing these things will give you more peace in the long run?

This week, consider how much your thinking about wealth (to what degree is your money yours?; what do money/material possessions say to you about those who possess them abundantly?; who deserves your generosity?; etc.) is influenced by culture, and how much of it is informed by scripture.

Also what can you do this week to begin to reprioritize your finances around giving, saving and living on the rest?