

bigldea

At one time or another, all of us have based our self esteem on the labels sewn into our clothes. Member's Only.

Izod. Abercrombie. Labels identify things...and people. We can choose to base our identity on the labels sewn into our jeans, what kind of car we drive, or where our house is located. When we allow our stuff to define us, we don't experience the life that God wants us to experience. We don't experience satisfaction.



Ecclesiastes 5:10. In that verse we read, "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

Jesus knew this. That's why so much attention is placed on money and stuff. Jesus talked more about that topic than He did heaven, hell, prayer, or faith combined!

BIG IDEA: When we allow stuff to define our life, we never really live.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What were some of the clothing labels you wanted to wear when you were in High School? When you weren't wearing the newest or the coolest, how did that make you feel?
- 2. Read Luke 12:13-21. In response to the man barking an order to Jesus, Jesus decides to tell a parable (a story with a point). What is this man's problem? His solution? Why is he a fool?
- 3. In your own words, what is the Big Idea of this parable?
- 4. Advertising is dedicated to making us think Luke 12:15 is wrong. What differences in lifestyle result from believing Jesus verses the advertisements?
- 5. *Read Luke 12:22-34*. How does this relate to Luke 12:13-21? What does Jesus tell the disciples *not* to do? Why? What does Jesus urge them to do instead? Why? What will be the result?
- 6. What are some of the "treasures" or possessions in your life currently distracting you from focusing on God? What specific things can you do to remove these distractions?
- 7. Read Luke 12:33. All of us can use money and stuff to define our worth. What is Jesus' answer to this dilemma?
- 8. Read Luke 12:34. What are some examples in your life of your heart following your stuff?
- 9. Read Luke 16:13. How does our stuff compete with our devotion to God?
- 10. Has there been a time in your life when you decided to put your trust in God rather than in money. If so, what did that experience teach you about God?
- 11. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. When you grow in your relationship with Christ, it often results in becoming unexplainably content with what we have. Are you more content today than you were last year? How has your relationship with Jesus in the last year affected your level of contentment?
- 12. Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-3. Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Describe a time you gave and the affect it had on you.
- 13. What does your bank account say about your worship? What does your giving say about your relationship with God? What does your giving say about what you believe about the Bible?

GOING DEEPER

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-20. This passage explores the futility of wealth and how it does not lead to true happiness.

- How should a person go into the house of God? (5:1)
- How did Solomon encourage us to conduct ourselves in the house of God? (5:2-3)
- What did Solomon say about vows made to God? (5:4-6)
- Why should we stand in awe of God? (5:7)
- What should not surprise us? (5:8-9)

- What grievous evil did Solomon notice? (5:13-17)
- What is good and proper for a person to do? (5:18)
- What sort of experience did Solomon describe as a gift from God? (5:19)
- What does this verse say happens to the person who has wealth and possessions? (5:20)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What is one thing you can change today in your life that will help shift your focus away from money and possessions and back towards God? What can you do this week to accept and better appreciate the things God has given to you?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34

