

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

Paradox Week 4

Rich & Poor

May 4 & 7, 2023

Start Talking What was your dream job as a child?

Main Idea

“Lord, give us the craving to build legacies shaped by eternity.”

In the final week of the Paradox series, Pastor Jackson discussed the paradox of rich and poor. This was one of the most popular topics Jesus talked about in the Bible, so the church should talk about it too.

Some of us may have learned that to be a Christian, you must have a “poverty” or “prosperity” gospel mindset. Neither one of these are the targets a Christian should aim for. The correct target is found somewhere in the middle, in the truth of God's word.

We aim at the right target in life when we first realize everything we have belongs to God, and we are poor in spirit until we surrender everything to Him. When we do this, He fills us with His spirit, and we are rich with the things money can't buy.

Pastor Jackson also explained how money and things are not bad but can be deceitful. We can start focusing on our possessions, bank account, etc., and lose sight of what matters most- our relationships and things that last for eternity. When our target is to use our resources to advance God's kingdom and help others, that's when we know we are living out the truth of God's word, and we experience what it means to live a rich and satisfying life.

Personalize it

1. Read Matthew 5:3. What does poor in this verse mean? What is Jesus trying to teach?
2. Money and things are not bad. But when we love them, they can distract us from the most important things that last for all eternity. What do you get easily distracted by that takes your focus off the things of eternity?
3. Read Luke 16:9. What does this verse mean?

**LET'S DO IT! Commit
to a step and live it
out this week**

1. Read Matthew 25:31-40. In these verses, Jesus is teaching that we must do something. Christians are known by the fruit that we bear. Are you bearing fruit that lasts for all eternity? What do you need to change? Your target? What do you need to start doing that advances God's kingdom and lasts for all eternity?
2. Read Philippians 4:11-13. What secret has Paul learned? Does it have to do with aiming at the right target?

Pray

Father, we love you. Please help us to use our resources to glorify You and to serve Your kingdom rather than ourselves. Please give us the craving to build legacies shaped by eternity. Amen.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 5:3
1 Timothy 6:10
Luke 16:13-14
Matthew 6:26
Luke 16:19-21
Luke 16:22-23
James 5:5
Luke 16:19
Matthew 25:31-40
Philippians 4:11-13