

“Let’s Go There”: An Honest Journey Into Advent | Wk 4

11/29/2020 | A Seattle Church: [@ASeattleChurch](#)

“Our Possessions” by [Pastor Tyler Gorsline](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Pastor Tyler Asked us to Look Inward to:

1. Answer “when is enough, enough?”, “why isn’t enough, enough?” and what are we to do with the fact that “more than enough, still isn’t enough”
2. Consider the modernized version of Jesus’ parable of the rich fool from Luke 12:13-21
3. Discern what “possessions” we would replace for the financial security that the “rich young tech worker” clung tightly to?
4. If we are aware of how uncertain the things are that we think will give us life, and how easily they can be taken from us
5. Evaluate what we refuse to give up to follow Christ, where your help/home comes from (Psalm 121:1-2)

Our Moment/Struggle can be described as:

- Needing liberation from being possessed by our possessions
- Filled with substitutions of other things in place of our security in God
- Rampant belief that what we have will give us life, instead of the life-giver we have
 - The “need to make radical dramatic, concrete moves to escape the materialism that seeps into our minds via diabolically clever and incessant advertising. We have been brainwashed to believe that bigger houses, more prosperous businesses, and more sophisticated gadgets are the way to joy and fulfillment. As a result, we are caught in an absurd, materialistic spiral.” -Ronald J. Sider (1978)
- The lie that “more is more” instead of a life of Christian Simplicity and Generosity
- Self-centeredness like the Rich fool:
 - Glen Stassen: “Note the problem Jesus identifies is greed, failure to care about the needs of others, believing that the fulfillment of life depends on how much one owns. The rich fool’s whole speech is about I, I, I, I six times, and “my” four times; the one time he says “you” he is talking to himself, not to others or to God (He says “Soul you have ample goods” in the third person). The jolt comes when God enters into the conversation. The rich fool does not expect that; he thinks he is the only one in the conversation, the one one concerned about all his food and possessions. He eliminates others from the ethical conversation about what to do with possessions. His foolishness comes from greedy selfishness, where there should be a practice of justice toward others and respect toward God.”

Impact/Key Points (Invitations from Christ):

- Jesus' teaches how to not put our hope in what we have: Matthew 6:19-34
- Jesus wants us to steward things, not store them up
- To seek/ treasure/ want most the “kingdom of God and His righteousness” before “all the other things given to us as well”
- To embrace Simplicity through 1) De-Cluttering 2) Fasting 3) Generosity

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: "Together"

1. What is something you always wanted or want now?
2. Share about a time where you were at peace, what was the situation, surroundings?

WORD: "Truth"

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Pastor Tyler challenged us to consider if we are possessed by our possessions. To consider where we care more about what we have than the one who has us (that's Jesus). He looked at Jesus' interaction with a brother asking for a bigger share of his family inheritance because he wants what his brother has. He also looked at Jesus' teachings about how we are to seek first the kingdom of God. Ultimately, we were invited to embrace the Christian practice of "simplicity." To participate in 1) de-cluttering of our lives from the things that hold us captive as items, ideas, and desires 2) to fast - to cultivate our appetite for God and 3) to give generously. To embrace that less is more, except in generosity. The more of less captures our hearts. We get to be people who build up places of need instead of storing up greed in our own hearts. These convictions all emerge from the "single-eye" focus Jesus calls us to in Matthew 6:22-25, 33

Read Matthew 6:19-34 (emphasis on 19-25, 33)

Read in 4 chunks if helpful vv 19-21, 22-23, 24, 25 +33

If time permits read examples of how God provides vv 26-32, 34 and discuss.

Read vv 19-21

- a. Why should we not store up treasures on earth? Where should we?
- b. How does Jesus say treasure and our heart relate?

Read vv 22-23

- c. How does Jesus talk about eyes, darkness and light?

Read v 24

- d. Who are the two masters Jesus is talking about? What does this absolute statement make you think/ feel?

Read v 25, 33 (could be helpful reading back to back before question)

- e. Where does Jesus instruct energy and focus to be put? What will happen? What does that mean?

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY MATERIAL

1. Read Psalm 121:1-2, Lev 25:23, Psalm 62:10 and Proverbs 11:28. Consider this quote by Spiritual Formation expert Richard Foster in *The Freedom of Simplicity*: “Jesus is not saying in Matt 6:21 that the heart should or should not be where your treasure is. He is stating the plain fact that wherever you find the treasure, you will find the heart. There is no option in this matter: our whole mind will be fixed around our treasure. Ask yourself in complete honesty, and share with another/ your group...what you treasure most? Consider why Jesus and the Bible speak so much about “our possessions” and money. How does what you have create a buffer between you and God. Ask yourself again. Whether it is material, spiritual, or tangible goods, why do you use them to keep trusting God at bay? What would happen if you were to intrust those things back over to God?”
2. Great resources for further-reading on this topic include:
 - a. 1) *The More of Less* by Joshua Becker
 - b. 2) *Freedom of Simplicity* by Richard Foster
 - c. 3) *Abundant Simplicity* by Jan Johnson
 - d. 4) *Essential: Essays by the Minimalists*
 - e. 5) Practicingtheway.org

APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. What have you treasured greatly in life? Is this in alignment with the passage, from the sermon/ this study/ what God is asking you to treasure?
2. How can you de-clutter/ simplify in your life to allow for more margin?
3. How do you feel about fasting? Is this new, do you have questions, how can we help you join in as we embark as a church to have a season of fasting?
4. How is your generosity? How has it been modeled (or not) by others in your life? What is scary about generosity? What is exciting?

PRAYER “Way”

1. Ask God to search the areas of your life that He would invite you into to de cluttering, step into fasting, and or being more generous.
2. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. Read our **ASC End-Of-Year Report** [HERE](#) to see how God has moved in and through our church in the past year!
2. **Awesome!** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations received to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our world
3. Consider supporting ASC's Year-End, "**Big-Give Goal**" to raise \$60,000 [HERE](#) . You can do so via one-time or recurring gifts, donating appreciated stock, business matching programs, or covering your Subsplash fees for the gifts you are already giving.
4. **Watch this video** for our latest [COVID-19 Pastoral Update](#) from Pastor Tyler
5. **Bring coats**, new socks, ski gloves, and lightly used running shoes in South Lake Union at The Collective. Drop off bins will be located in the lobby until Friday, December 4th.
6. **All-Church Prayer Call** on Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
7. **Invite a Friend** to join us online next week as we look at "Our Families" in Wk 5 of our "Let's Go There: An Honest Journey into Advent" series.
8. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? [HERE](#)
9. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? [Let us know.](#)
10. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, [let us know.](#)