

Week Beginning: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Worship Series: #3 in series



**lifegroups**  
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

## Theme Verse

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:34

## Remember This Week

Your relationship with money and possessions says a lot about your relationship with God. For the movement of your money reflects the movement of your heart. Where your money goes, your heart is going. For you will always exchange money for what you value and what you treasure. So, what do you treasure?



KINGDOM Growing



**I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry.**

Psalms 34:1-4, 10-15

Lord God Almighty, we praise you for hearing the cry of the afflicted and sending your Son Jesus Christ into the world to bear its sin and pain so that we may lack no good thing. Help us to seek you and treasure you above all else in our lives. Use us to grow your kingdom. Use us to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. Use us to teach your Kingdom ways to a world that is without you. Teach us now through your Word and let your kingdom grow in and through us as we study together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



1. *Highs and Lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *If you won a) \$1000 b) \$100,000 c) \$1 million, what would you do with it?*
4. *What lessons about money have you learnt in your life?*
5. *To what extent do you feel joy in your giving your financial gifts to the Lord through the work of the Church? In what ways is that a futures investment?*

In the real world, money equals success. Everyone wants to be a millionaire. Everyone wants to win the lottery. In our more cynical moments we'll say "You can't take it with you," but most of us live our lives trying to prove Jesus wrong when he says, "Life is not measured by how much you own." Today Jesus shows us a more joyful way to live as we invest our resources generously to bless the world, in kingdom growing and kingdom expanding ways.

Read Luke 12:13-21

6. *What do you find challenging/confusing/confronting about this text?*

Jesus starts his teaching inspired by a real life situation in which a man calls on Jesus as a moral and upright character to give his opinion on an inheritance that isn't being divided up. Jesus responds by refusing to get involved in the matter as his concern was for greater things. Instead





he warns the people— **“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist of an abundance of possessions.”** In saying this, Jesus was dealing with the underlying fear and lie that was being fed to the man, namely, “If you lose me, you lose a very large part of your life. If you lose me, you lose what life can be for you. I am your life. Do you realize how big I am? Life will be real life — truly life — if you have me.”

7. *In what ways has money wooed you with the words: “I give you life. Your life will be drab and boring and empty and meaningless and unhappy without me. I am your life.”*
8. *How does verse 15 fly in the face of modern advertising? What kind of things suck you into the abundance mentality?*
9. *Read 1 Timothy 6:9, 18–19. What hazard does Paul say that money brings?*
10. *What is true life all about according to Jesus? (Read John 17:3)*
11. *Where is the focus of the rich man's actions? Where does God appear in his thinking? What can we learn from this?*
12. *If God had been the man's treasure, what do you think he would have done differently?*
13. *Verse 21 talks of being rich towards God. What do you think that means for our lives?*

This rich man grown apathetic to the needs of others because of the insulation his wealth provided. He has no concern beyond the contentment of his own soul. He has no empathy for others; no sense of the needs of his neighbours; no sense of how his blessing could be a blessing to others; no sense of connection to anyone. In this sense, he is a fool, locked in his own little world and oblivious to the presence, humanity, and need of all others. It's all about me, myself and I! It isolates him from all community. His only conversation is with himself.

14. *How can money lure us away from love of God? To what extent have you experienced that lure in your own life/the isolation from others that it causes?*

Read Luke 12:22-34

15. *How does this next lesson from Jesus relate to the previous section?*
16. *What do you worry most about in your life? What are the anxieties you see most prevalent in the society around you? How does God answer their needs?*
17. *What does Jesus tell his listeners not to do and what does he urge them to do instead? Is this realistic or idealistic for you?*
18. *Where does our heart need to be for this kind of lifestyle to be realistic?*
19. *What are the signs that our hearts are set on kingdom things? What can we do if we're struggling in this area? (read Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7 if you need a bit of help)*
20. *What's the great promise of verse 32 and how does this help us to live out the challenges in verse 33?*



The movement of your money reflects the movement of your heart. Where your money goes, your heart is also going.

21. *What does the movement of your money tell you about what you are treasuring at the present time?*
22. *Does your monetary investment in God's Kingdom bring you joy. Why/Why not?*
23. *What steps can you take this week to grow in becoming rich toward God?*



- Give thanks to God that He has been pleased to give us the kingdom. Thank Jesus that through laying down his life for us he has given us a sure future in Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to move your heart toward God as your treasure more and more each day.
- Pray for God's power and courage to invest your wealth in ways that advance God's Kingdom.
- Pray for those who are struggling financially or those who are lost to their wealth, that they may find hope and salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for those who are building up riches here on earth and feeling isolated from others, that God would release their hold on their possessions so that they can take up the treasure in Christ.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, you are God's treasure. Amen.

