

Group Agenda – January 12, 2008

Lesson: "Good Lessons from a Bad Man"

Passage: Luke 16:1-13

Background

Milton's sermon this week was from Luke 16. It talks a lot about money, and our attitude toward it, and what is really important and lasting.

God wants us to love him and have his priorities. We must see our hold on money as a temporary thing that will cease as soon as we die, if not sooner. The use of those resources is that of a manager, trying to look out for the interests of the true owner, who later will reward us with "true riches" that will really be ours.

Until then, Jesus wants me to use that which I control to make friends of others and bring them to Christ, so they can "welcome me into eternal dwelling" when my time on earth is over.

IceBreaker

Would you describe yourself as a "saver" or a "spender?" What is one legacy you hope to leave behind when you die?

Read & Discuss

<Read Luke 16:1-8>

- Was the manager in the story a "good guy" or a "bad guy?" What does Jesus want us to learn from this scoundrel's actions?
- Is money & wealth inherently bad? To whom does our money really belong? What is Jesus' view regarding the wisest way to deal with money & wealth?
- This man was a "steward," a manager of the possessions of the true owner; Christians often use this idea to describe our relationship to God and the money we possess. How does this view influence a disciple of Jesus in regard to the use and importance of his money?

<Read Luke 16:9>

- How does a person live who is “using his money to gain friends in eternal dwellings?”

<Read Luke 16:10-12>

- Do you agree that how someone uses small amounts of money and resources is a good indicator of how they will use larger amounts? Why or why not? Give examples of good uses and bad uses of both small and larger amounts of money.
- If “worldly wealth” is just a test, an exam to see how well we can be trusted, what is the “true riches” Jesus refers to?

<Read Luke 16:13>

- How are God and money “competing masters?” How does love for one affect someone’s view of the other?

Apply

- *Jesus says the shrewdness of this man is to be admired, because he used his temporary control over some money to create future friendships that could save his hide after he lost that control. Do you think it is more valuable to have friends than to have money? Explain.*
- *If Amarillo South as a church put more priority on making eternal friends who would welcome us into God’s eternal dwelling, and we used our money to make that happen, how might our lives/church/city look different than it does now?*
- *What, for you, are the best uses of the “worldly wealth” God has placed in your control? How can you use it more effectively to gain “true wealth” that will really be yours?*

Pray

- Ask God to change our hearts and our love from worldly wealth to the OWNER of that wealth, God himself.
- Go around the circle and name one or two people each that you would really like to be there in God’s house to welcome you home. Pray you can use your “worldly wealth” wisely to help this happen.