

Small Group Bible Studies

The Call to Discipleship - Stewardship

Mark 12:13-17, Mark 12:41-44

We live in a world that is ruled by money, wealth and possessions. During the last few months we've witnessed the fallout from failing financial institutions, bankrupt companies, redundancies and home repossessions. In our 'developed' world we need money to live, but how as Christians should we view money? Wealth is certainly not a place for us to put too much confidence. How did Jesus view money and possessions? What can we learn from Jesus to help us use money well?

1. Think back over the last year and try to work out what proportion of your income you gave to God (ie. Monetary or other gifts, use of possessions and time for God). Do you feel you gave as much as you could? Do you believe that your possessions are your own or that they belong to God?

Read Mark 12:13-17

2. How does Jesus view money in this passage?
3. What does it mean to "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar?" Should we pay taxes even if they seem unjust?
4. Jesus says "give to God what is God's". What does he mean? See Romans 12:1-2
5. What does Jesus want me to learn from these verses?

Read Mark 12:41-44

6. Who do you identify with more in the story – the rich people or the poor widow?
7. Do you think it's easier to give all you have if you have very little? If so why? Do we view money and possessions more highly than we should?
8. What does Jesus want me to learn from these verses?

Compared with most of the world, we are incredibly rich. We are in reality much more like the rich people in the story. What is important is how we view our wealth and how we use it.

9. Think about the money / time / gifts you give to God. Do they really cost you or are you just giving "out of your wealth"?
10. What can we learn from the following passages about right and wrong ways to deal with wealth? Mark 10:17-23, Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Jesus teaches that wealth is not an important factor in living as a disciple of Jesus, except as a potential obstacle or rival to God in our hearts. Jesus kingdom is not built on wealth and possessions, but on relationship with God and dependence on him. If God has given us wealth it is so that we can submit it to his will and use all he has given us to glorify him.

Taking Action

What do I need to do to be a better steward of all that God has given me?

What can we as a homegroup do to help each other honour God with our finances, possessions, time and gifts?

My Action Plan