

Home Campaign Study Week 1: Trust

READ: Luke 12:13-34

SERMON SUMMARY: While Jesus is teaching about living life free from fear, a man interrupts him to settle a family dispute over money. Jesus responds with a parable about a rich fool who hoards his wealth only to die in his sleep. This passage exposes the signs of a dysfunctional relationship with wealth: strained relationships, excessive anxiety, and a default scarcity mentality. Together these symptoms betray our underlying <u>covetousness</u>, our inordinate desire for material things. We implicitly believe that if we only had just a little more of [insert your material desire here], then we will have "arrived."

Jesus confronts the young man in the passage and us with our need for an altogether different relationship with our material wealth and possessions. Jesus shows us that freedom from covetousness comes when we <u>recognize that nothing belongs to us</u>; it all belongs to God. He calls us to <u>rest in God's abundant generosity</u>, which we see most clearly on the Cross. Finally, Jesus challenges us to actively <u>cultivate a lifestyle of generosity</u>. All of this means we have to trust God and let go of whatever we are clinging to for security, such as financial stability.

- 1. What does money mean or represent to you? How do you feel about it? Where did you learn this? (Use Meaning of Money handout)
- 2. Do you live out of a scarcity mentality or an abundance mentality? How does this influence your approach to giving?
- 3. What evidence do you see in your life of God's generosity?
- 4. What "dock(s)" are you clinging to for security?
- 5. Solomon spent seven years building God's Temple, but interesting took thirteen years to build his own palace (1 Kings 6:38-7:1). How may you be spending more time, talent,

- and treasure building your own "palaces?" Where may God be calling you to devote more to his Kingdom?
- 6. What are some ways that you and your family can cultivate a lifestyle of generosity? What habits can you adopt to actively nurture greater charity and a mindset of abundance?

PRAY: Meditate on God's generosity to us in Christ crucified and give thanks for the specific ways that God has graciously provided for you in the past. Pray that God would fill you with a sense of gratitude over His blessings in your life, and that you would have the courage to let go if the things you cling to for security and take hold of Jesus Christ instead.

DO: Prayerfully examine your strained relationships, anxieties, feelings of scarcity, discontentment, or fearful competitiveness. Journal or list these items out as they come to mind and consider how clinging to these may be holding you back from a deeper trust and commitment to God.

Furthermore, look at your finances and consider your priorities and goals. Are they Kingdom-seeking or wealth-seeking? What would it take for you to have "enough," so that salary increases would enable you to give more away, rather than build bigger barns.