

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: July 3rd 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Giving

Introduction: Jesus begins to challenge the ways in which the Pharisees of his day performed their 'spirituality' before others.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Matthew 6:1-4

Reflect:

- Jesus states a central principle of the spiritual life of Kingdom people (6:1).
 - How would you explain that principle in everyday language?
- Jesus is clearly not outlawing acts of generosity that others could see (see Matthew 5:15,16). So what exactly IS it that he is disapproving of?
- What are some of the 'rewards' that a disciple might forfeit if they do not follow Jesus' teaching here? Is there a clue in Matthew 5:45?
- Specifically here Jesus is talking about giving financial support for the poor. Why is this important? Do Psalm 34:6; 35:10; 140:10; Proverbs 14:31; Proverbs 17:5 Proverbs 22:19, help?
- John Wesley's three rules for managing our money were held up for consideration, as a rule-of-thumb for developing a Christian lifestyle. He stated that we should
 - **Earn all we can** (not be afraid to earn whatever we can using the gifts that God has given us in our employment)
 - **Save all we can** (by which he meant live as simply as possible, being content with the basics being provided for and not pursuing a lifestyle of 'more, bigger and better' as funds increase.
 - **Give all we can** - make everything beyond what is needed for a simple lifestyle available for God to direct. By living simply and refusing to keep upgrading our own lifestyles, we retain the capacity for greater generosity when confronted with the needs of others).
- Discuss Wesley's three rules:
 - Are they helpful?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- Are they Biblical?
- What might it take to begin to adopt them in our lives in a consumer culture?

- How might a lifestyle based on *contentment* with *enough* (rather than greed or ambition to have more) speak to those on your Frontline?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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