

Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

ELEPHANT in the Room

(Part 2)

Nov 8, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experiencelibrary.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Our whole lives are one giant investment. Whether we realize it or not we are always investing in something. The question is, what is the return going to be?

--Matt Burrell--

Verses: Matthew 6:19-21; 33

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

- How do you define an earthly treasure and describe the type of return received?
- Often we forget that the Lord states specifically for us to not lay up temporary treasures. Does this affect our mindset when we go to buy a car, a new TV or Christmas shopping?
- Jesus teaches an applicable lesson to our "wealth" culture where possessions often end up possessing their owners. Or stated another way, it is not wrong to have things, but it is wrong for things to control us. Share what thing(s) were important to you in different stages of your life and how has that changed as you grew in Christ.
- Businesses strategically place items in our path as we walk through their stores. How easy is it to succumb to impulse buys?

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal

- One researcher suggests that professed followers of Christ take in 68 percent of the world's income, yet only 3 percent of that goes to the church and a tiny percentage to world missions. When did you last invest in a mission field or church vision?
- **Read Luke 12:16-21**
This parable defines how most people see treasures as being things/stuff. Most of the time we are focused on things and not on the time we should use wisely. How much time in your week is spent in service to God and how much time do think is an acceptable amount? Could your time be considered a tithe as well?

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

- Take note that the word "your" is used in this verse. The verse is directed specifically to each of us personally. Does what you treasure and what is in your heart bind together? If I treasure earthly things, where is my heart? If I treasure heavenly things, where is my heart?

- **Discuss.** No person can tell whether they are rich or poor by turning to their bank account. It is the heart that makes a person rich. They are rich or poor according to what they are, not according to what they have.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you

- “Seeking” demands intention. It’s not a casual lollygagging and waiting around for something to happen. It means to work towards something with enthusiasm. Think about how hard you have worked to understand, teach and live the Gospel in your life. Has there always been intentionality in it?
- “First” demands priority. Consider what is the first thing you do daily, how much time has passed before God is sought each day?
- We are to seek two things first in life: the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness. Where is the kingdom of God? What does it mean to be righteous?
 1. Kingdom [Basileia] denotes sovereignty, royal power, dominion. Basileia can also refer to the territory or people over whom a king rules.
 2. Righteousness [Dikaiosune] is rightness of character before God and rightness of actions before men. Righteousness of God could be succinctly stated as all that God is, all that He commands, all that He demands, all that He approves, all that He provides through faith in Christ
- Is it wrong to have possessions? So, what “things” are Jesus talking about when he says in verse 33 that all these “things” shall be added to you.

Final thoughts.

Notice that Jesus is not suggesting but commanding all citizens of the Kingdom of heaven who still live on earth to cease making material things the center of their life ("stop worrying" Mt 6:25-32). Instead, the believer's lifelong pursuit is not for things but the presence, pleasure and Person of Jesus Christ our Lord and our King.