

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE / FOR APRIL 29 SUNDAY SERMON

Quick Review

1. In the recent "First Free Goes to Broadway" sermon, Mark discussed two major themes: traditions and riches. Summarize what he said about each theme in your own words. Note key passages of scripture related to each theme.

Leader Notes: Here is a rough sketch of the sermon outline:

- I. With faith in God, some traditions should change, especially when... (Mark 7:1-5, 6-9, 14-15, 21-23).
 - A. Human traditions become more important than our heart condition.
 - B. Existing traditions are not focused on participating in God's mission.
- II. With faith in God, be careful about your pursuit of wealth and possessions. (Luke 12:13-21).
 - A. A fool is consumed with accumulating wealth.
 - B. Greed will not be able to bring salvation or lasting satisfaction.
 - C. Do not worry, God will provide for his children.

My Story

1. What family traditions have been adapted or modified in your family over the years? What made you welcome or resist the changes?
2. Consider your material possessions for a minute. What is the most significant possession you have either lost or voluntarily given up in your life? What were the circumstances leading up to this loss and how did you respond shortly after?

Digging Deeper

1. At the end of the sermon, Pastor Mark quickly noted Matthew 6:19-24. Read the passage and discuss the following questions.
 - What are the two types of treasures and how are they different? (vv. 19-20)
 - How does a person determine which treasure is being pursued? (v. 21)
 - How does the metaphor of the light and eyesight relate to wealth? (vv. 22-23)
 - Lastly, what are the "two masters" referring to? (vv. 23-24)

Leader Notes:

The 2 types of treasures are: treasure on earth (earthly rewards) and treasure in heaven (eternal rewards). A person determines which treasure is being pursued by looking at the motives of their heart. Are they more concerned about secular status or doing good works? The light and eyesight expands on the introspection theme illustrating that a healthy life is marked by someone who uses their wealth to bless others and that an unhealthy life is marked by someone who refuses to help others and hoards wealth. The latter produces great wickedness and the former produces a generosity that spills over to others (the body). Lastly, it is clear from 6:24 that the two masters are God and wealth.

2. Why did Jesus spend time talking about God and wealth in one of his most famous sermons? Why does his teaching ring true today?

3. Read Mark 8:34-9:1.
 - Being a fully devoted follower of Christ is costly. What does this passage teach about how costly discipleship is?
 - First Free Church is committed to...developing fully devoted followers of Christ as a part of our mission statement. What does this passage teach our church about the Christian life and how it should be pursued?

Taking it Home

1. Do you have any traditions that are more important than your relationship with Jesus or any that keep you from participating in God's mission? If so, what are they and what action do you need to take to reposition your heart?
2. How are you doing as a fully devoted follower of Christ?
3. What stands in the way of deepening your relationship with God (wealth, possessions, misconceptions of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, etc.)? As you consider the answers of people in your group, turn the statements in to prayer requests and pray for each other to close the study.