



What Rich People Need to Hear

Small Group Work Sheet

October 2, 2011

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- Do you think you are wealthy? Go to www.globalrichlist.com and enter the median household income for Spirit Lake, IA (\$41,160). At home, enter your own income.

Part 2 - Sermon Review

- In the first century, what was so shocking about Jesus' statement, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God?"
- What does wealth do to our heart that shuts off the flow of God's grace into our life?
- What were the three forms of currency in the ancient world? What was happening to that currency in the hands of the rich? What should the rich have done with their resources?
- When we hoard, what does it reveal about the source of our security and identity?
- Is it wrong to buy things we enjoy?
- The Christian life is not one of self-indulgence but humility and sacrifice. How do we know when wealth is spiritually destroying you?
- What does 1 Timothy 6:17-19 teach us about our money?
- Pastor Kurt mentioned late payment on bills and under-tipping as two common methods of dishonest gain. Name more ways of dishonest gain either from the sermon or your own experience.
- Do you think gambling and casinos are a means of dishonest gain?
- What do the principles from the "Buried Treasure" series mean? Which one is your favorite?
 - In God we Trust
 - Its Not My Money
 - Send It Ahead
- What is one thing from the message you want to apply this week?

Part 3 - Digging Deeper - Distinguishing Saving from Hoarding

Saving is a means of not presuming upon God. Hoarding is a means of replacing God. Saving can avoid presuming upon others to assume responsibility for our future needs. Hoarding is a self absorbed commitment to independence from others who could help us if we were in need, just as we can and should help others.

When I save, I lay something aside for future need. If I sense God's leading, I will give it away to meet greater needs. When I hoard, I'm unwilling to part with what I've saved to meet other's needs, because my possible future needs outweigh their actual present needs. Hence, I fail to love my neighbor as myself.

The difference between saving and hoarding isn't simply the amount but the attitude. Nonetheless, there's a vast difference between saving five hundred dollars or a few thousand dollars for a "rainy day" and saving a quarter of a million dollars that could last a rainy decade. Some lay up enough to survive a stormy century! In seeking to provide for our future needs, we should not neglect those who are currently needy. Our plenty will supply what they need.

...your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 2 Corinthians 8:14 (ESV)

"God pours out his choicest blessings on those who are anxious that nothing shall stick to their hands. Individuals who value the rainy day above the present agony of the world will get no blessing from God." (William MacDonald, True Discipleship, pg. 97.)