

Sermon Based Group Homework

For the message on October 22, 2017

Passage: Matthew 6:31-32; Various

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This week's study is focused on the hunger of our hearts to be satisfied and happy. Let's start by talking about where you go when you're hungry and thirsty. When you are extremely thirsty, what is your (non-alcoholic) drink of choice to quench your thirst? When you are extremely hungry, what is your meal of choice if you could eat anything you wanted?
2. Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

LET'S GO DEEPER

1. Mike talked about the nature of our hearts and how our heart will continually chase after whatever it thinks will make it happy or accepted. Rewrite each of the following verses in a way that would explain what each verse means to a child. How do these verses help you understand the nature of the human heart?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

¹⁰ "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Matthew 15:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

Based on these verses, why is "just listen to your heart" not always the best advice?

2. One of the ways that people try to satisfy their empty hearts is the pursuit of more money and possessions. Mike illustrated this truth by looking at the example of Judas, who spent three years following Jesus with the other disciples. Although Judas was close in physical

proximity to Jesus, his heart drifted far away from the Lord. How do the following verses warn us as followers of Jesus about the dangers of money and possessions?

Deuteronomy 8:10-14 (ESV)

¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Mark 4:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Is it always wrong to make a good living and pursue riches? When does it become a problem?

How does 1 Timothy 6:17-19 help us answer the questions above?

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

3. Money is a poor substitute for the lasting satisfaction that only God can provide. What can we learn from the following verses about satisfying our hearts in God?

Psalms 107:9 (ESV)

⁹ For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

John 6:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 7:37-39 (ESV)

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

What experiences with money in your life have shown you that lasting satisfaction only comes from knowing God?

What money advice would you give your children, knowing what you know now as an adult about money and possessions?

TAKE IT HOME

Lately, is there anything you've been trying to satisfy your heart with other than the Lord? Give that thing to the Lord in prayer this week, asking for His forgiveness and for Him to satisfy your heart completely.

Are there any financial prayer requests this group can pray for you about?

Prayer Requests:

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