THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

March 15 & 16 '08

"Reboot" Series

When its time to adjust the "default" settings...
Studies from the Sermon on the Mount

This Week's Message: **"In God We Trust…?"**

Matthew 6:19-34

Pastor Mark Burch

Will I trust my heavenly Father to take care of me? OR will I take matters into my own hands?

Balancing my responsibility to work hard, give generously, save regularly, and spend wisely with an absolute confidence that God is my provider is a difficult balance for all of us to maintain. It is so easy to begin to believe that we have to look after ourselves, and to become consumed with "having enough."

Jesus challenges us to put our trust in Him alone and to give up the useless habit of worry…easy to say…hard to live out!

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Do you have questions about Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount? Send them to sermonquestions@willowparkchurch.com and then listen to future messages for the answers!

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

History (Making it Personal)

1. Take some time to yak around the room on the topic of worry. What are the most common "worries" of people in our world today? Are there differences between our culture and others? Are there unique male or female worries? Your thoughts?
2. Are you a worrier? Why? And about what?
3. Why do we find it such a great past-time? What would a life without worry look like?
4. If you had all the money in the world, do you think it would stop you from worrying? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

5. Read Matthew 6:19-34 & talk about the connection between money and worry? Why do we worry so much about financial issues? What are we lacking in our understanding of God?
6. According to vs 19-21 our heart will follow our treasure. What does this teach us about investing and the power of re-directing our heart, interests, and passions?
7. Verse 22 raises the issues of comparison – what we might call the keeping up with the Jones' syndrome. I see what someone else has and I want it. Read I Samuel 8:6-22 and talk about the desire of the nation to "be like the nations around them." How have we succumbed to this desire today?
8. Read Deuteronomy 8:6-20 and talk about the other Gods that threatened to lead the people away. Compare this to Matthew 6:24 and talk about the power this rival God holds over us. How do you see it manifest in our culture?
9. Read I Timothy 6:6-10 & 17-19 and talk about contentment. Beyond food and clothing, what standard of living do we require in order to be content? Could you live with less?
   a. Richard Foster says we could get rid of 80% of our possessions and not really miss them. How do you think you'd handle such a radical down-sizing?
10. Talk about Paul's journey into contentment – Philippians 2:10-13 & 19. What was his secret?
11. Read Malachi 3:6-18. One of the distinctions between the "righteous and the wicked" is how we share our wealth. How have we talked ourselves out of the plain teaching in this text? Why have we so often been fearful of putting God to the test? What does our "giving" reveal about our faith in God?
12. James 5:1-6 is a sobering text when we consider our wealth as compared to the standard on the global scale. What responsibility do we have for economic justice on the global scale? What changes can we make in our spending and earning that would benefit the world's poor?

Taking It Home (Application)

13. This is an intensely personal and practical text…are you content with your relationship to God and money? If not, then what practical issues need to change? What steps will you take? Who will you talk to? Who will hold you accountable?
14. Pray for each other that God would show Himself powerful and faithful to you – so that you could more fully trust Him. Are you prepared to give up your worry?