



February 2012

Matt 6:19 "Heart Condition"

Community Group Notes

Introduction

An 'Elephant in the Room' for churches is the issue of finances. Jesus spends 25% of His teaching on matters relating to money and yet we do not give it the same emphasis in church (we do in life though!). What is God's heart when it comes to finances? What is money and wealth for? How is it an indicator of our heart condition?

Discussion

- Why is the discussion of money an uncomfortable and 'taboo' subject in church?

Explanation

a) We have money to enjoy it. Ecc 5:19

Why is our enjoyment of possessions pleasing to God?
Are we reluctant to recognise this sometimes? If so - why?

b) We have money to be generous with it. 1 Chr 29:14

In what ways are we called to be generous?

c) Everything belongs to God

- Ex 19:5
- Job 41:11
- Ps 50:10
- Hagg 2:8
- Deut 8:17

How does understanding this important principle bring freedom to us?

Matt 6:19

Jesus taught that what we think about our money is the most reliable indicator of the spiritual condition of our heart.

- Why does Jesus emphasise this?
- What connection is there between money and worship?
- What do we worship outside of God? How do we sacrifice?
- Is it only Christians who worship? How do we know?

Luke 18:18-23

- What similarities are there between the rich young ruler and us?
- Why does Jesus ask about his finances rather than centring on anything else?
- Why do we tend to use other indicators of spirituality? What would they be?

Lk 19: 8-10

- Did Zacchaeus find salvation because he gave his money away?
- How do we know?
- How did his decision demonstrate his heart condition?

Application

- Spend some time in prayer being honest before God – what is He saying to you about your money habits?
- What decisions can you make this week to align your spending with your desire to making God your first affection?
- What can you do this week to bring *action* to your 're-alignment'?
- Is there someone you could talk to about good money management?

What is a community group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of The South. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another towards the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighbourhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a regular gathering in a residence to involve conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, service in the neighborhood and probably something to eat!

At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighbourhood.

Why should I join a community group?

We are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

How do I get connected to a community group?

The easiest way to get connected is on Sunday: before or after the service, stop by Coffee Central. The volunteers will take your details and our coordinator will be in touch. Alternatively, you can fill out a 'Comment Card' (found in the back of the seats) and place it into the offering bag.

You can begin participating in the community of The South at any time, and we are glad to welcome you.