

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK SEVEN

IN GOLD WE TRUST – MEANS OR ENDS?

ICEBREAKER: What was your parent's approach to family finances?

STORY: Who is sharing their story this week? 3 positives and 3 negatives that have impacted who you are today.

LEADER: Patrick pointed out that Jesus talked about possessions and money more than anything else. Why do you think He did that?

READ: Luke 16:1-4

QUESTION: What problem(s) is the manager facing in this parable? *Short amount of time, limited resources, inside guy, still had his pride*

READ: Luke 16:5-7

QUESTION: What does the manger do to tackle this problem? *Cuts the bills (debt) to earn favor*

READ: Luke 16:8-9

QUESTION: Why does the owner commend the manager? *He was shrewd. He thought it through and took advantage of the limited time and opportunity he had.*

QUESTION: What does it mean to make money a means to an end in life? What makes this challenging for us?

READ: Luke 16:10-11

QUESTION: What is the difference between viewing our role as

a manager rather than an owner? We have a different perspective and vantage point. We don't own it. We can't take it with us. We look at it with eternity in mind. We make the most out of the time we have and use what we've been given for a bigger story.

PATRICK SAID: *Temporary wealth can make an eternal difference. It can make your life more meaningful.*

QUESTION: How have you seen or experienced this in your life?

READ: Luke 16:10-11

QUESTION: Money is one way we can test who we are devoted to. If we don't decide what we are going to live on, our appetites will decide for us.

Brainstorm some questions you could ask yourself about how you view & spend the money you have been entrusted with? Possibilities:

What would the owner like to see me do with what He gave me?

What do I want people to celebrate about me when I die?

*What percentage of my income am I going to live on/give away?

How am I making a difference for eternity with what I have?

LEADER PRAYER: *God help us see our lives and resources through your eyes. Help us be shrewd and wise managers of what you have given us. Show us how we can make a difference for eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LEADER: Who will share their story next week?

Baptism is coming up Palm Sunday Weekend!

Talk about the importance of baptism as a next step in your faith.

Encourage members to sign up online and make plans to come and cheer on your group members.