

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

“Living with Generous Compassion”

Mark 6:30-46

May 3-4, 2014

For Starters

- Who are the “poor” today—literally and figuratively?
- What does the world say we should do for the “needy?” How is this message portrayed in politics, media, and entertainment?
- In your life (home, work, school, church, family, etc.), where do you see “obsessing over stuff” happen the most?

Digging In

Generosity

Believe it or not, Jesus has the only foolproof portfolio strategy for a guaranteed, 100% successful return on our investments. In Matthew 6, He speaks of treasure and riches and their real value and worth. He warns us against hoarding up for the “here and now.” Jesus explains how to avoid the disastrous decision that will result in a negative return. Read this portion of Jesus’ teaching from the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 6:19-24

- Jesus speaks of the decaying nature of earthly things. In what ways have you seen your “stuff” decay or disappear?
- We can serve God *with* our money, but we cannot serve God *and* our money. How does this communicate the *new* expectation of stewardship from God?

Compassion

Following Jesus means more than just “believing” and accepting the gospel. It means embracing the good news in full measure—the gospel of the kingdom! It means we act on the gospel and allow Jesus to call the shots and be the boss of our lives. Read James’ powerful question in the following passage:

James 2:14-17

- Who among you feel the sting of poverty on any level?
- What do you think the Holy Spirit is asking you to do about it?
- In what ways can your LifeGroup or family adopt this mentality and engage with people on a consistent basis?

Bringing it Home

You have heard the expression, “Put your money where your mouth is,” right? Well when Jesus said, “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,*” (Matthew 6:21 ESV) He was saying, “You’ll put your money where your heart is!” Jesus was giving us a method by which we can determine our priorities. If we want to know what the priority and condition of our hearts is, just take out the checkbook and see where we spend our money. We invest in that which we believe. We spend our treasure on those whom we value the most. Who or what is at the center of all of these?

- How does my heart need to change so that I treasure the people Jesus treasures?
- How can I shift my investment from this earth to God’s kingdom?

Prayer

Pray that God would change our hearts to be full of generosity and compassion for others. Ask God to make our church a place of compassion known throughout the city as people who love like Jesus loves. Ask God to show you this week someone you can compassionately serve.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org.