



SESSION #3

Fear of Economic Disaster
1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 12:15-34

Introduction: *People handle their finances in various ways. Some ignore their accounts and hope they have a positive balance at the end of the month. Others micro manage their money to the point on obsessing on their money. Either approach gets very nervous when the topic turns to money in a message or Small Group. What is the place of a Small Group in this area? It isn't to review your income and expenses, but rather to discover what the Bible says about money and attempt to find practical ways to align ourselves around those principles.*

Discussion Starter:

Why do you think many people get nervous when the topic of money comes up?

READ: 1st Timothy 6:17-19

- Who do we (as a Small Group) consider to be “rich?”

3 billion of the world's population lives on \$2.50 a day. That means that anyone that CAN spend more than that in a day is rich in comparison. Vern said that “wealth’ means those who live on anything more than necessity (e.g. food and clothing). Anything more is wealth – just a matter of degree.”

- Do we in this Small Group, then, fall into the category of this verse as “rich?”
- How do we put our hope in wealth rather than in God?
- Why is it “arrogant” to put your hope in wealth?

NOTE: Arrogance takes the credit for our circumstances rather than grateful for God's part in resourcing us. Arrogance also takes ownership of our wealth rather than seeing it as a stewardship (responsibility to God as owner) which is governed by God's purposes.

READ 1st TIMOTHY 6:3-10

- What are some other things that Paul says come out of greed?
NOTE: Paul actually connects division in the Church, conflict and doctrinal error with greed (6:5)
- Jesus says to put our hope in God, why does he tell us to hope in God rather than in wealth
NOTE: “Hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” The implication is that the person who trusts in their wealth believes that wealth is the key to their happiness and that God wants to steal that joy from us in His design for our lives.

Joy and the Generous Lifestyle:

- READ 1st Timothy 6:17-18
- What are the four commands in 6:18 that Paul says are the key to a joy-filled life in 6:18?
- Vern said that “You defeat the fear of financial collapse by being generous.” Why is that true?

- How could you incorporate generosity into your lifestyle?

LEADERS' SUGGESTION

Bring a Laptop to your group, or ask the hope if there is access to the internet at the Small Group site. Go to the Toms Shoes website and read about Brian McCloskey's business that gives a pair of shoes for every pair of shoes that you buy. (<http://www.toms.com/our-movement>) What ideas can you brainstorm for building generosity into your lifestyle, teaching your family to become generous, incorporating generosity into your business, even as a Church? How can you develop generosity into your Small Group?

- What do you think is the benefit of investing in treasure in heaven (6:19)?
- How is laying up treasure in heaven a better motive than laying up treasure on earth (6:19b)?

Verse to Memorize:

1st Timothy 6:17 *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*
(NIV)