



October 26 / 27
Matthew 6:19-24
“Investing”

Money, wealth, possessions – these are strange things. Most people who have lived on this planet have, by our standards, barely had enough to scrape by. Others have accumulated to proportions that we cannot wrap our minds around. It was reported this year that the 26 world’s richest billionaires own as much as the world’s poorest 50%. In the US, the richest 3 people (Gates, Bezos, Buffet) similarly own as much as the bottom half of our population. But here’s the thing...we can get hung up on what we own regardless of how much of it there is. Jesus, once again, tells us that it’s all about the heart.

Sermon Notes:

Welcome

- Introduce anyone new to the group.
- Optional icebreaker question: What is one of your most valued possessions (not a car or house, but something more like a family heirloom)?

Opening Prayer

It’s important to begin with prayer. Pray that God would help each person hear exactly what they need through your time together.

RICO

No, that’s not the name of a character in one of Barry Manilow’s songs from the 80’s. It stands for Radical, ImmEDIATE, Costly – Obedience. This is the kind of obedience that Jesus calls us to. He gave us radical steps, like “Come, follow me,” or “Take up your cross,” or “Love your enemies.” His commands are not an invitation to negotiation. When we hear from him, we don’t get around to obeying when it’s convenient. And it’s costly. But when we obey this way, Jesus calls us his friends (John 15:14). So, even as your group meets today, consider how you can respond with RICO!

Look Back

- Over this past week, what is one way you saw God move?
- Is there someone whom you have helped take a step toward Jesus? Have you shared your story or God’s story with someone?
- Did you follow-through with a step of obedience that you shared the last time your group met?

The banner features the title 'The Sermon on the Mount' in a white serif font against a dark green background with a faint cityscape. The background is split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right, with a light blue section in the bottom-right corner.

The Sermon on the Mount

Look Up

Do you know what is never in a funeral procession? A U-haul truck! It's true that we can't take it with us. Jesus' words today remind us that nearly every physical thing we own will one day wind up at Goodwill or in a landfill. Think about the few things you might have that belonged to a grandparent. Do you have anything from a great-grandparent? Unlikely. So the question before us is: will we invest in things that ultimately turn to dust, or will we invest in things that last?

- Read Matthew 6:19-24 several times together as a group.

Did anything catch your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- How would you define "treasures on earth"? What about "treasures in heaven"? What kinds of things fall into each category?
- Jesus was speaking to mostly poor, first century people. Do you think his message would be any different to those of us living in a wealthy country in the 21st century?
- Discuss this idea: treasures consist more in the affections of the heart than in what one can hold in his hands.

- In what ways is the eye the lamp of the body?
- How we view money and possessions is not "just one area of my life" - it affects everything. That seems to be what Jesus has in mind when he says that if the eye is healthy, the whole body will be full of light. Do you agree that much of our lives is affected by the money issue?

Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

- What does this passage describe God? What is Jesus' point in describing God this way?
- What are some ways we can loosen our grip on treasures on earth? How can we hold more tightly to treasures in heaven? Be as practical as you can be.

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- Is there someone God is calling you to move toward for the purpose of reconciliation?
- What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another