

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, February 12th, 2017

Obstacles to Movement: Money (Proverbs 13)

Sermon Recap: Travis spoke on the obstacle of money. Surprisingly, he shared that Proverbs reveals our issue with money comes more from a lack of listening (and obeying) than from a lack of understanding. Even if it's painful, we need to listen to wisdom. Proverbs teaches that if we are content, consistent in our handling of His resources, and compassionate towards others, God will provide for all of our needs and we will always be satisfied.

1. Travis gave history on how his family dealt with money, leading to how he dealt with it. How was money talked about (or not) in your household? Was it a positive or negative influence for your own handling of money?
2. Reading versus like Proverbs 13:4,7,8,11,22,23, and 25; where do the themes of contentment, consistency and compassion come through?
3. Travis shared that Solomon prayed for an understanding mind (1 Ki 3:9) which lead to his great wisdom. That is literally a "listening mind." Why is there a difference between and listening mind and a knowledgeable one?
4. 2 Corinthians 8:9 is a powerful truth. How does Paul equate grace? What was Christ's aim in disadvantaging himself?
5. Proverbs lays a foundation for the "fear of the Lord" as the "beginning of wisdom." Do you struggle with this reality? How so?
6. How can you focus on contentment (consuming less) in your life practically? How does Sabbath rest make the reality of Psalm 23:1 even fuller?
7. Where do you need to be more consistent with your money, either in work, saving, giving or spending?
8. **[These are serious questions and difficult to honestly reflect on.]** Is compassion missing from your financial plan? Are you prospering at other people's expense (disadvantage)? Could God be leading you to specific acts of compassion?
9. When you hear a number like 20 trillion dollars in national debt, it can seem outlandish... even fictitious. Does the Church, God's people, have an obligation for national debt? If so, what can we possibly do about it?
10. How might embracing contentment, consistency, and compassion better teach our children about handling the resources God gives us?

"The wicked advantage themselves by disadvantaging others but the righteous disadvantage themselves to advantage others" - Bruce Waltke