



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Outpouring: Perspective”

Ps Kevin York – September 7, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- If your home caught on fire and you could only save one material thing, what would it be?
- What causes or needs are you most prompted to give to?
- Do you formally budget your finances, or do you manage your money more intuitively?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Matthew 6:19-24 ESV)

Jesus compares and contrasts the normal human life and life in his kingdom.

Two Treasures

Normal life is fundamentally based on self-interest, with mortal life on the earth as it's horizon. It is ultimately a masked form of greed. Greed which is common to all people doesn't appear as greed, but as normal human behavior.

Kingdom life is based on interest in God and that which he cares about. Heaven and eternal life are its horizon. Generosity is its spirit.

We must evaluate the use of our finances with heaven in mind. What are God's values? What does he treasure? Answering these questions will provide clarity for the ordering our finances. God wants us to store up treasures in heaven, and not treasures on earth.

Two Eyes

Jesus' reference to the two eyes are a euphemism; in this case, a common way of referring to a condition of the human heart. A bad eye is someone who is stingy. A good eye is someone who is generous. Those who are stingy are living in spiritual darkness, even though they think they can see. But those who are generous live in God's light.

Common greed can be found among all classes of people: rich, poor, and middle-class; and among all ages, ethnicities, and cultures.

Those who are generous look for opportunities to give in agreement with God.

Two Masters

People have a choice. They can either serve God or money. They cannot serve both. It is not simply hard or difficult to do so; it is impossible.

A person must choose. Either they will serve God, or they will serve money, which is serving what we think is best with mortal life on earth as our horizon. God wants our whole heart, including our affections.

We count our offerings given to the church and ministries, but God weighs them. That is, God evaluates the motive and the generosity that gives rise to the gift.

The Pathway Out of Greed

Track your treasure; that is, how you use your finances. Evaluate your budget in the light of God's kingdom. If generosity and God's values are not foundational, pray and confess and repent to God. Begin to make the changes that are necessary to begin to steer your finances in the right direction. Then, as you are able, begin to increasingly use your money in ways that honor and please God.

If you have not yet gone through the Financial Peace program, you are strongly encouraged to do so. Those of you that have, and have been able to implement its wise financial principles and practices, should strongly consider taking the Legacy Journey financial program. For more information, visit Bethel's website or contact Bethel's office or talk to any of our staff.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Do you struggle at times with ordering your finances between the competing interests of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of self?
- What changes do you need to make in the way you spend your money to be able to live with God's kingdom and values as your guide.
- What did you learn from this lesson and how are you going to apply it to your life?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would help us to clearly evaluate our finances in light of his kingdom and values, and repent, if necessary.
- That God would help us make the changes necessary to order our finances to reflect his values.
- That God would guide us in being generous toward others and the advance of his kingdom.