

GROWTH GROUPS

April 22, 2012

Malachi 3:10-14; Matthew 6:19-24

Conversation Starter –

Have you ever heard someone say that they were following their heart? Think of a time when a person you knew followed their heart; how did that work out for them. Did it go well for them or poorly? Why does our heart lead us in the wrong direction some times? How does our heart lead us in the right direction?

Understanding –

Last week we began our stewardship series, Clint introduced an important question: Do we trust Him? Do we trust God in every area of our life; particularly in our finances? I hope that you have spent some time contemplating that this week. This week we are looking at: A Heart For God. More particularly we are looking at the kind of heart God longs to bless and use. Matthew says one cannot serve God and money (or whatever else). When Matthew tells us that where our treasure is there our heart is; he was speaking a truth. How do we spend most of our time, when it is up to us? What does how we spend our money reveal about where our priorities lay. The early Israelites came to the place where they wondered if serving and giving to God really paid off. God is more interested in the condition of our hearts than with the percentage that we give in the offering.

1. Why does God seem to like blessing or rewarding people who have the right kind of heart? Why is the heart so important in worship and in stewardship? What kind of heart does God reward according to the Bible?
2. How is giving to the Church investing in the kingdom of God? What does it mean to invest in the kingdom of God? How is investing in the kingdom of God like or different than other kinds of investing?
3. If a person who did not know you were to examine your calendar (your schedule), your checkbook and your credit card statement what would they say were the priorities of your life? Could they tell that you are a Christ follower? How?

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